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JAPAN

Nakasone Vows Efforts to Internationalize Japan	C 1
Stresses Coexistence of Nations	C 2
PRC's Tian Jiyun Meets With Kuranari, Nakasone	C 2
Nakasone, Tian Discuss Trade	C 3
PRC Suspends Dispatch of Group to Japan	C 3
Foreign Ministry Sees No Change in PRC Policies	C 4
Takeshita on Hu Resignation	C 4
Miyazawa Trip to U.S. To Discuss Exchange Rate	C 5
'Seems Uncertain' of Mission	C 5
Sumita Rules Out 'Immediate Cut' in Discount Rate	C 7
Kuranari Says U.S. Comments Influence Rates	C 7
Soviet Medical Team Winds Up Japan Visit	C 8

NORTH KOREA

New ROK Minister, Police Chief Called 'Drama'	D 1
DPRK Seeks Meeting With Olympic Executive Board [AFP]	D 1
Pyongyang Refutes South Statement on Dam	D 2
Support for North-South Talks Continues	D 4
Soviet Ambassador's Statement	D 4
GFTUK Leader's Statement	D 4
Yi Tae-ho's Letter to NNSC	D 5
Red Cross Delegate's Statement	D 6
Economic Talks Envoy Statement	D 8
UN General Secretary's Support	D 9
LSWYK Chairman's Statement	D 10
Chongnyon Supports Talks	D 11
Follow-Up Statement on North-South Talks Issued	D 12
Chon's Reference to 'Crucial Step' Criticized [NODONG SINMUN 16 Jan]	D 13

SOUTH KOREA

Furor Over Seoul Student's Death Continues	E 1
President Expresses 'Regret'	E 1
Prosecution Speeds Probe [THE KOREA HERALD 21 Jan]	E 1
NKDP Disputes Cause of Death [THE KOREA HERALD 21 Jan]	E 2
NKDP Wants Plenary Session [THE KOREA HERALD 21 Jan]	E 3
Yi Min-u Threatens Rally [THE KOREA HERALD 21 Jan]	E 4
ROK Construction Minister on Kungangsan Dam [THE KOREA HERALD 17 Jan]	E 5
Prime Minister To Visit West European Countries	E 7
No To Visit Netherlands [cross-reference]	E 7

MONGOLIA

Batmonh Receives Visiting Soviet Official	F 1
Army Paper Views MPR-USSR Relations, Cooperation	F 1
CEMA Scientific, Technical Committee Meets	F 2

CAMBODIA

Hun Sen Attends Education Ministry Meeting	H 1
VOK: Sihanouk Ready To Hold Talks With Vietnam	H 1

LAOS

Official Statement on U.S., Thai Arms Stockpile	I 1
Vientiane Recalls 'Historic' Lam-Son Operation	I 1
Kaysone Phomvihan Addresses Economic Conference	I 2
Attends Closing Session	I 3
Sisavat Keobounphan Addresses Resident Vietnamese	I 4
GDR Cooperation Delegation Arrives for Meeting	I 5
1986 Rice Harvest To Reach 1.4 Million Tons	I 5

THAILAND

Prime, Foreign Ministers Greet DPRK Counterparts	J 1
Sitthi Calls for Soviet Action on Cambodia	J 1
[THE NATION 21 Jan]	
Military Reports Thai-Cambodian Border Situation	J 2
Businessman Says Vietnamese Agree to Barter Plan	J 2
[THE NATION 19 Jan]	

VIETNAM

USSR Envoy Discusses Gorbachev Peace Initiative	K 1
Cooperation Protocol With USSR Signed 19 Jan	K 1
Delegation Attends CEMA Committee Meeting	K 2
NHAN DAN Comments on Kuranari's S. Pacific Tour [18 Jan]	K 2
NHAN DAN Editorial Views Product Contract System [19 Jan]	K 4
Agricultural Ministry Launches Emulation Movement	K 5
[NHAN DAN 27 Dec]	
Hanoi Reports on National Rice Planting	K 6

PHILIPPINES

Aquino Brushes Aside Coup Attempt Reports	P 1
[BUSINESS DAY 20 Jan]	
Government, NDF Peace Efforts Described	P 2
[THE MANILA CHRONICLE 17 Jan]	
Extension of Cease-Fire Under Consideration	P 4
Communists Considering Talks Withdrawal [AFP]	P 5
UNIDO To Oppose Extension of Cease-Fire	P 5
[PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER 15 Jan]	
Regional Cease-Fire Committee Members Named	P 6
[THE MANILA CHRONICLE 16 Jan]	
NDF Provincial Officials Returning to Hideouts [AFP]	P 7

Enrile Claims No Chance for Charter Approval [PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER 17 Jan]	P 8
KMU Affiliates To Support Draft Constitution [ANG PAHAYAGANG MALAYA 19 Jan]	P 8
Government, MNLF Talks To Resume 9 Feb in Manila	P 9
21 Killed in Minguindanao MNLF-MILF Clash	P 10
Pimentel Wants All-Faction Mindanao Peace Panel [THE MANILA CHRONICLE 20 Jan]	P 10
MILF Demands Same Government Recognition as MNLF [MANILA BULLETIN 19 Jan]	P 11
Mindanao Leaders Warn Government on Negotiation [MANILA BULLETIN 19 Jan]	P 11
Misuari Warns Against Government Retaliation [AFP]	P 12
NPA Reportedly Kills 200 for Not Paying 'Taxes'	P 13
Soviet Embassy Denies Delivering Arms to Rebels [AFP]	P 13
Increasing Soviet Interest Investigated [THE MANILA TIMES 20 Jan]	P 14

NAKASONE VOWS EFFORTS TO INTERNATIONALIZE JAPAN

OW200233 Tokyo KYODO in English 0158 GMT 20 Jan 87

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 20 KYODO -- Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone declared Tuesday he will promote efforts to make Japan more international and open to the outside world and will also reform the nation's administrative, fiscal, tax and education systems.

Nakasone, addressing a convention here of his ruling Liberal-Democratic Party (LDP), said Japan must make a more active contribution to the international community, and not remain a mere beneficiary. His remarks reflected his firm resolve to develop Japan from an economic giant into a major political power, analysts said.

The convention, the party's 47th, precedes the resumption of the ordinary session of the Diet (parliament) on January 26. The main opposition Japan Socialist Party will also hold a convention here Thursday through Saturday.

Nakasone, who is prime minister by virtue of being LDP president, urged party representatives from across the country to help build up an "international state of Japan" bearing its share of responsibility for the peace and prosperity of the world. The prime minister said Japan is now in an era of reform crucial to its future hopes and the creation of a sense of stability and satisfaction. Nakasone said he will seek support at the June 8-10 summit of the seven main industrial democracies in Venice, Italy, for Japan's basic science research project, called the "Human Frontier Science Program." The 1 trillion yen project, the first of its kind undertaken by Japan, is designed to promote high-tech development in the nonmilitary field over a period of 20 years.

Nakasone said the summit would cover such topics as arms reduction, prevention of international terrorism, maintenance of international free trade, and cooperation to help developing and debt-ridden countries. He said there is a minimum level of defense spending necessary to ensure the peace and independence of Japan, a remark seen as intended to justify the LDP's decision to scrap the policy of keeping defense spending within 1 percent of Japan's gross national product.

The defense budget for fiscal 1987, starting April 1, is put at 3,517.4 billion yen or 1.004 percent of projected GNP for the year, slightly exceeding the decade-long ceiling due to provisions to improve the remuneration of servicemen, training programs and communications networks, he said. Nakasone pledged that Japan will never become a major military power and will maintain its purely defensive security policy.

He said he will seek further administrative, fiscal, tax and education reforms. The tax reforms will be aimed at making Japanese firms more competitive in the world market, under the same conditions as other nations' firms, he said.

But Nakasone made no reference to the LDP proposal to introduce a controversial new indirect tax, a value-added type sales tax expected to be around 5 percent.

On April's nationwide domestic elections, Nakasone encouraged the party delegates to achieve success by using "the power," which brought about the LDP's historic victory in the national elections of July last year.

Noboru Takeshita, LDP secretary general, said in a report to the convention that the party now has 305 lower house and 144 upper house members, and nationwide membership totaled some 2.52 million last year.

Stresses Coexistence of Nations

OW190551 Tokyo KYODO in English 0510 GMT 19 Jan 87

[Excerpt] Kyoto, Jan. 19 KYODO -- Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone told a gathering of educators from around the world here Monday that education in the future must be aimed primarily at fostering "the philosophy of coexistence" of all nations. The "stupidity" of instigating wars between nations by implanting hatred in schoolchildren against those of different cultures should never be repeated, he said at the opening of a three-day conference attended by 44 education experts and government representatives. They have come to this ancient Japanese capital from 24 countries around the world, as well as the European Community and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).

Nakasone did not refer to any specific historical incident, but he added that advances in communication technology are now tying the different parts of the world together through information networks. This change in the world is also providing the ground for the growth of "the philosophy of coexistence" of the nations which are the "mind of the globe," he added.

The prime minister had helped bring about the education conference when he suggested it at the summit of the seven main industrial democracies held in Tokyo last May.

Results of the discussions will be submitted to this year's summit of the seven-nations scheduled to be held in Venice, Italy, in June [passage omitted]

PRC'S TIAN JIYUN MEETS WITH KURANARI, NAKASONE

OW201349 Tokyo KYODO in English 1341 GMT 20 Jan 87

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 20 KYODO -- Chinese Vice Premier Tian Jiyun Tuesday called on Japan to correct its trade surplus with China and increase investment and technology there, a government official said. In talks with Foreign Minister Tadashi Kuranari, Tian also said the recent resignation of China's Communist Party chief Hu Yaobang will have no effect on the country's economic policy.

Tian has been here since Sunday to discuss expansion of bilateral economic ties with Japanese Government officials, leaders of the ruling Liberal-Democratic Party and key businessmen. Tian said that despite Hu's resignation as the party's general secretary, China will continue to promote economic construction and modernization without changing current policies. China will pursue an open-door policy externally and economic revitalization internally, he was quoted as saying. He confirmed that the personnel reshuffle will have no effect on bilateral relations and said China will seek friendly development of its ties with Japan over the longer term.

Tian said China's trade deficit with Japan, which reached 4.1 billion dollars last year, will hamper bilateral economic expansion if it persists, and called on Japan to import more Chinese products, including coal. He also requested more investment from Japan, the promotion of joint venture projects, and technology transfer. Tian asked for expansion of the Japan's third Official Development Assistance (ODA) starting 1991.

Pledging Japan's assistance for China's modernization project, Kuranari promised to try to redress Japan's trade surplus with China but also called for Chinese efforts to increase its competitiveness and explore new product possibilities, the official said. Kuranari asked for further improvements in China's investment environment for a smooth flow of Japanese investment and technology to China. Referring to ODA, Kuranari told Tian that Japan's largest ODA is directed to China and that the interest rate has been cut by 0.5 percentage points to 3 percent from January this year, adding that it is too early to discuss the next ODA plan as the seven-year second ODA, in which Japan has pledged 470 billion yen up to 1990, only got started in 1984. The official said China may want the third ODA initiated ahead of schedule, with the second one tailing off toward 1990.

Nakasone, Tian Discuss Trade

OW210545 Tokyo KYODO in English 0458 GMT 21 Jan 87

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 21 KYODO -- Visiting Chinese Vice Premier Tian Jiyun held talks with Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone Wednesday and reaffirmed China's unchanged policies following the resignation of Chinese Communist Party chief Hu Yaobang, a government official said.

China will seek modernization, an open-door policy and domestic revitalization as in the past, said Tian, who has been here since Sunday to discuss bilateral economic expansion with government officials, politicians and businessmen.

Tian, who is in charge of China's economic affairs, also said China will continue to expand friendly relations and economic cooperation with Japan as before.

Nakasone said Japan's policies toward China will remain unchanged and requested Tian to convey the Japanese view to China's senior leader Deng Xiaoping, Premier Zhao Ziyang and other leaders.

Nakasone said both countries should try to redress bilateral trade imbalance, now totaling 4.1 billion dollars in favor of Japan last year, and promised to cooperate in China's modernization. He asked Tian for an improved environment for investments from Japan.

Tian said he was impressed with deep-rooted friendly bilateral ties with Japan and Japanese businessmen wishing to expand economic ties with China. He said China will improve product quality and deliveries as part of its efforts to redress the trade imbalance and investment environment.

Nakasone asked for details of China's requested project to open a so-called export base in China as the plan is still vague.

PRC SUSPENDS DISPATCH OF GROUP TO JAPAN

OW201359 Tokyo KYODO in English 1353 GMT 20 Jan 87

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 20 KYODO -- The Chinese Communist Party Tuesday informed the Japan Socialist Party of what amounts to a virtual suspension of plans to send a party delegation to Japan at the invitation of the JSP, tentatively scheduled for around March, JSP sources said.

The reason for the suspension was not immediately known, the sources said. The Chinese message said it has become difficult to dispatch a party delegation to Japan this year, the JSP sources said.

The Chinese party and Japan's largest opposition party have agreed to exchange party delegations regularly.

The JSP sent a delegation to China in 1985 and the Chinese party's reciprocal visit was originally scheduled for last year, but the timing was later delayed to around March this year at the convenience of the Chinese party.

Tuesday's message from China, however, asked the JSP to prepare the sending of another delegation to China as agreed on under the original exchange program, the JSP sources said.

FOREIGN MINISTRY SEES NO CHANGE IN PRC POLICIES

OW161415 Tokyo NHK Television Network in Japanese 1200 GMT 16 Jan 87

[From "No 9" program]

[Text] The Japanese Foreign Ministry takes the view that with General Secretary Hu Yaobang's resignation, there will be no changes in China's line of modernization or its policy of opening up in the economic field. In his recent talks with LDP Secretary General Takeshita during the latter's visit to China, Deng Xiaoping, China's strongman, stated his view that China would adhere to its open policy.

In this connection, the Foreign Ministry believes that there will be no great changes in China's domestic or foreign policies for the time being. However, if General Secretary Hu's resignation should bring about an overall retreat of the reformists in the CPC and if it should seriously shake up the Deng power structure, there could be a serious impact on overall Japanese-Chinese relations. Therefore, the Foreign Ministry has decided to watch further developments with great caution.

Takeshita on Hu Resignation

OW170645 Tokyo KYODO in English 0635 GMT 17 Jan 87

[Text] Oita, Jan. 17 KYODO -- Noboru Takeshita, secretary general of the ruling Liberal-Democratic Party, said here Saturday that the Friday's resignation of Chinese party leader Hu Yaobang should not discourage Japanese capital investments in China.

Takeshita, who visited China recently, said that government and party officials should take steps so that Japanese private investors might not hesitate to invest in China because of the resignation" [quotation marks as received] of Hu, known as an advocate of the open-door policy. He said he has been assured by Chinese leaders that Hu's resignation would have no adverse effect on China's policy toward an open economy. Takeshita added that as a result of his recent visit to China he was under a strong impression that the sacking of Hu would not have any effect on the friendship between Japan and that country.

MIYAZAWA TRIP TO U.S. TO DISCUSS EXCHANGE RATE

OW200315 Tokyo KYODO in English 0241 GMT 20 Jan 87

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 20 KYODO -- Finance Minister Kiichi Miyazawa will leave for Washington Wednesday to discuss ways to stabilize foreign exchange rates with U.S. Treasury Secretary James Baker. Miyazawa told reporters Tuesday morning he had informed West Germany about his visit to the U.S. and indicated there is a possibility of holding an emergency meeting in Washington of financial experts of the Group of Five advanced nations (G-5) -- the U.S., West Germany, France, Britain and Japan. He said current foreign exchange rates make it necessary to hold consultations on foreign exchange market problems, as agreed in a joint statement with Baker issued last October.

Miyazawa is expected to ask Baker whether the U.S. would be able to make coordinated intervention in foreign exchange markets to support the dollar and discuss on other financial policy coordination measures, including a possible cut in interest rates, Finance Ministry sources said.

The yen rose to a postwar high of 149.98 yen per dollar momentarily in Tokyo Monday, climbing above the 150 yen level for the first time.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone said Miyazawa will carry his personal letter to U.S. President Ronald Reagan. Nakasone is expected to stress in the letter the need for coordination of financial and monetary policies among advanced nations to stabilize foreign exchange rates, government sources said.

Miyazawa said he did not know whether West German Finance Minister Gerhard Stoltenberg would be able to join in his meeting with Baker as there is a West German general election scheduled next Sunday. However, Japan would stress the need for another G-5 meeting to coordinate financial and monetary policies, Finance Ministry sources said.

Miyazawa said his meeting with Baker is scheduled for Wednesday evening (Washington time). He said he is planning to leave Washington Thursday to return home.

Meanwhile, Masaharu Gotoda, chief cabinet secretary, told a separate press conference that it is vitally important to keep close contacts with West Germany to stabilize foreign exchange rates. But Gotoda, too, refrained from saying whether West Germany would be able to join the scheduled talk between the U.S. and Japan or not. "West Germany is now in the middle of election campaigning. And Japan's Diet discussions will resume next week," he said.

'Seems Uncertain' of Mission

OW201423 Tokyo KYODO in English 1403 GMT 20 Jan 87

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 20 KYODO -- Finance Minister Kiichi Miyazawa, due to leave here for Washington Tuesday, seems uncertain whether his hastily arranged mission aimed at reversing the sharp appreciation of the yen against the dollar will prove a success, government sources said Tuesday.

Miyazawa himself thinks his trip to Washington for talks with Treasury Secretary James Baker involves risks, a close aide to the finance minister said. He decided to fly to Washington after the yen rose monetarily to a postwar high of 149.98 yen to the dollar in Tokyo Monday, climbing above the 150 yen level for the first time. The yen's new surge has sent a shock wave through Japan's industrial circles, which are already suffering from the deflationary impact of the yen's sustained rise since September 1985.

Miyazawa apparently intends to obtain renewed U.S. cooperation in stabilizing exchange rates on the basis of his joint statement with Baker in October last year, and to give shape to a framework for concerted action at a finance ministers meeting of the Group of Five (G-5) industrial powers -- Japan, the U.S., West Germany, France and Britain -- the source said.

He will meet with Baker in Washington Thursday.

However, the sources said, Miyazawa is in for tough negotiations on account of Washington's rather equivocal attitude to the dollar's depreciation. A dealer at a major commercial bank here said that if the upcoming Miyazawa-Baker meeting results in mere repetition of the statement of last October expressing agreement on the need for exchange stability, and produces no specific action, it will be viewed as a failure and could give added impetus to the current dollar-selling wave.

At his meeting with Baker, Miyazawa will seek to ascertain if the U.S. is willing to make a concerted market intervention to prop up the dollar, the sources said. He will also discuss the possibility of a concerted interest reduction by Japan, the U.S. and West Germany.

Other major topics will be Japan's measures for expansion of domestic demand, U.S. economic trends and balance of payments, and an early convening of a G-5 finance minister's conference, they said.

There is concern here, however, that unless Miyazawa presents sufficiently convincing measures for the boosting of domestic demand to cut Japan's trade surplus, he will find Baker unwilling to cooperate.

A high official of the U.S. Treasury Department was recently quoted as labeling Japan's demand-boosting measures "inadequate" against a background of rising protectionism in the U.S. Congress. Moreover, the U.S. has in effect connived at the sharp depreciation of the dollar since the turn of the year, in stark contrast with the Bank of Japan's massive dollar-buying operations in Tokyo and financial centers abroad. This is seen as reflecting not only Washington's irritation at the persistence of huge U.S. trade deficits, but also a decline in President Ronald Reagan's leadership due to the Irangate affair, according to the source. Under these circumstances, there is also skepticism here over the effect of Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone's letter to President Reagan, which will be carried by Miyazawa.

SUMITA RULES OUT 'IMMEDIATE CUT' IN DISCOUNT RATE

OW200731 Tokyo KYODO in English 0647 GMT 20 Jan 87

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 20 KYODO -- Satoshi Sumita, governor of the Bank of Japan, said Tuesday that Japan is not considering additional monetary relaxation measures for the time being, ruling out an immediate cut in the official discount rate.

Stability in foreign exchange rates is vital for the Japanese economy and the central bank will continue intervention in foreign exchange markets to prevent an excessive rise of the yen, he said during a lunch meeting hosted by the Federation of Economic Organizations (Keidanren).

Sumita said the current "instability" in foreign exchange rates in the direction of a higher yen would increase the deflationary tendency of the economy, hampering Japan's efforts to achieve domestic-demand oriented economic growth and reorganize its economic structures. Japan would try to take adequate measures to cope with the situation, Sumita said.

Finance Minister Kiichi Miyazawa told reporters earlier he will leave for Washington Wednesday to discuss foreign exchange rate movements with U.S. Treasury Secretary James Baker.

Sumita said he believes a joint statement announced last October on an agreement between Baker and Miyazawa to seek stability in foreign exchange rates is still in effect. But Sumita said this week's meeting between Baker and Miyazawa will be different in nature from a Group of Five (G-5) finance experts meeting and should not be called a "G-2." Besides Japan and the U.S., G-5 includes West Germany, France and Britain.

Sumita said he hoped the current trend in the yen-dollar rate would be reversed. He said recent movements in foreign exchange rates reflect moves by speculators who are overreacting to market factors such as the sluggish prospects of the U.S. economy in the January-March period, a record trade deficit in the U.S. in November, tension involving the European monetary system and various reports and statements from the U.S. Government.

The yen hit a postwar high of 149.98 yen to the dollar momentarily in Tokyo Monday.

Sumita said the Central bank will maintain the present basic tone of monetary relaxation in a way that supports the economy, adding that he does not think the current "easy money" situation will lead to a revival of inflation. He noted Japan had cut its official rate -- charged on Central bank loans to commercial banks -- four times last year to an all-time low of 3.0 percent per annum. Sumita said the Central bank will continue to carefully watch the liquidity level.

KURANARI SAYS U.S. COMMENTS INFLUENCE RATES

OW211015 Tokyo KYODO in English 1008 GMT 21 Jan 87

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 21 KYODO -- Foreign Minister Tadashi Kuranari, commenting on the rapid appreciation of the yen against the dollar, said Wednesday U.S. officials should refrain from making various comments on exchange rates which he claims influence the foreign exchange market.

In an address to the Asian Affairs Research Council, Kuranari said that if U.S. Treasury Secretary James Baker indicated he would favor a lower dollar, it could have an immediate and undesirable effect on the market. Kuranari also ruled out the possibility of joint talks between Japan, the United States and West Germany aimed at forming currency stabilization policies. He added, however, it was necessary for Japan to hold bilateral discussions on the issue with the two other nations. The latest comment by Kuranari follows reports that Japanese officials are concerned their U.S. counterparts may push for a higher yen following disclosure of the austere fiscal 1987 Japanese Government budget. Although the government had maintained it would introduce incentives to boost domestic demand and, in the process, improve sales of U.S. and foreign goods in Japan, the budget released December 30 fell short of expectations in the U.S., prompting administration officials to express dissatisfaction, Kuranari said.

The yen broke through the 150 yen-per-dollar rate for the first time Monday, prompting Finance Minister Kiichi Miyazawa to leave for Washington Wednesday to hold talks with Baker.

SOVIET MEDICAL TEAM WINDS UP JAPAN VISIT

OW201141 Tokyo KYODO in English 1125 GMT 20 Jan 87

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 20 KYODO -- The leader of a Soviet medical delegation, scheduled to return to Moscow Wednesday after a 10-day visit to Japan, said Tuesday his country will announce internationally the results of a survey on victims of the April 1986 Chernobyl nuclear power plant disaster. In a press conference at the Soviet Embassy in Tokyo, delegation head Andrey Vorobyev unveiled plans to conduct a long-term survey on Chernobyl victims to determine the effects of nuclear radiation on two groups -- nuclear power plant employees and others who suffered from burns and residents of the Chernobyl area within a 30-kilometer radius of the plant. The delegation, consisting of four medical experts and one interpreter, was presented with a health check program by the radiation effects research foundation, an international authority on radiation studies, during its five-day visit to Hiroshima, site of the world's first atomic bombing.

According to Vorobyev, Soviet officials intend to follow the Japanese program instructions by comparing Chernobyl-related data to that of Soviet citizens unaffected by the radiation. The program, the first of its kind to be drawn up by Japanese radiation experts, is designed to determine the amount of radiation the victims were exposed to, the long-term health conditions of those affected and the types of disease which may develop in the aftermath of the world's worst nuclear plant mishap.

The Soviet team toured a number of research facilities set up in Hiroshima for the treatment of atomic bomb victims, as well as the Radiation Institute in Osaka and the National Cancer Institute in Tokyo, during its visit, which started January 10.

In a meeting Tuesday with Toshio Yamaguchi, member of the ruling Liberal-Democratic Party and lower house foreign affairs committee head, the Soviet delegation invited a Japanese group to pay a reciprocal visit to Moscow and Kiev, located near Chernobyl in the Soviet Ukraine. Yamaguchi is credited with inviting the Soviet Chernobyl team to visit Japanese facilities when he toured Moscow last August.

According to the latest statistics, the number of deaths resulting from the Chernobyl incident totals 31, and an estimated 130,000 area residents are believed to be affected by exposure to radiation. On the average, it is believed these residents were exposed to radiation 24 times more powerful than is considered safe. Data to be provided by Soviet officials, particularly statistics concerning the rate of cancer and leukemia cases among Chernobyl residents, are expected to aid specialists around the world involved in radiation studies.

NEW ROK MINISTER, POLICE CHIEF CALLED 'DRAMA'

SK210503 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0451 GMT 21 Jan 87

[Text] Pyongyang January 21 (KCNA) -- The Chon Tu-hwan fascist clique, flurried by the angry voices denouncing the criminal torture and murder of a patriotic student of Seoul University, dismissed the puppet home minister and chief of the police headquarters on January 10 and put in their places Chong Ho-yong and Yi Yong-chang respectively, according to a report.

Chong Ho-yong, a graduate from the puppet army military academy, is a fascist murderer who, as a tool of traitor Chon Tu-hwan, has been well to the fore in the Kwangju bloodbath and other crackdown upon the people, holding such post as "special warfare commander", "army chief of staff" and so on. Yi Yong-chang is also a thug who has proved his capacity in the suppression of patriotic people as puppet North Kyongsang Provincial police chief, then Pusan city police chief and Seoul city police chief from last year.

This indicates that, though the Chon Tu-hwan fascist clique staged the drama of replacing some running dogs with others under the pressure of public opinion at home and abroad, this is nothing but a ruse to quell the protest of the people and mislead public opinion. In fact, this has revealed their intention to intensify repression of people with thugs of worse type.

Facts show that neither the democratisation of South Korean society nor its independence can be achieved and only a more blatant fascist dictatorship will be forced upon the people, if the traitor Chon Tu-hwan, the most faithful lackey of the U.S. imperialists and chieftain of fascism, is not ousted from "power."

DPRK SEEKS MEETING WITH OLYMPIC EXECUTIVE BOARD

AU201124 Paris AFP in English 1102 GMT 20 Jan 87

[Excerpt] Lausanne, Jan 20 (AFP) -- North Korea, given until September to make up its mind about whether it wants to take part in the 1988 Summer Games in Seoul, has asked to meet the International Olympic Committee's (IOC's) Executive Board here next month.

The IOC said last October they would make no further concessions to the North, who are demanding a full share of the games, unless they gave a firm commitment to go to Seoul. [passage omitted on past talks]

IOC president Juan-Antonio Samaranch said last year they needed an outright commitment from Pyongyang by September.

A North Korean Olympic Committee delegation led by its president, Kim Yu-sun, who is also an IOC member, will meet Executive Board members here on Feb 11-13.

PYONGYANG REFUTES SOUTH STATEMENT ON DAM

SK201221 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 1150 GMT 19 Jan 87

[Commentary by station commentator Cho Tong-ik: "Will They Continue the Game of Wringing Their Own Necks?"]

[Text] As was reported, on 19 January, the DPRK Power Industry Committee issued a statement denouncing the South Korean puppets for adhering to the anti-republic commotion by again putting forward the issue of our Kumgangsan power station construction. The statement fully exposed the deceptive and slanderous nature of the so-called statement of the construction minister, even distorting the contents of our white paper, and the nature of mean maneuvers perpetrated by the South Korean puppets to mislead public opinion while attempting to pick a fight with us. The statement also elucidated our position on the issue of so-called discussion, investigation, so forth.

Brazen-faced people, once they start to lie, continue to tell new lies, not knowing about their own disgrace. This is applicable to the puppets' act perpetrated in connection with the issue of the Kumgangsan power station. To prove the theory of the flooding offensive they rave about, the puppets carried out slanderous propaganda against us, describing our Kumgangsan power station as a great reservoir containing 20 billion tons of water.

Since the white paper was published by our Power Industry Committee, revealing details of the Kumgangsan power station construction, the puppets have been forced to admit the fact that the Kumgangsan power station consists of four reservoirs, not one. This precisely means their recognition of the preposterous nature of the flooding offensive they loudly talk about.

This notwithstanding the puppets, dexterous in lying, made another preposterous lie in the so-called statement of the construction minister and attempted to justify the theory of flooding operation whose falsehood was fully exposed. This is shown by the fact that they fabricated in their own way the geological nature, the structure of the dam, the waterhead system, and the dangerous water level of the construction site of the Kumgangsan power station.

The geological nature of the construction site of the Kumgangsan power station mainly consists of quartzite, which is extremely hard, and schist. Limestone is very scarce and is only found in mountainous areas. However, the puppets raved that limestone is the foundation, distorting the truth, and that a dangerous situation can be caused by flooding, a natural breakdown caused by earth tremors after the power station is completed. It is nonsensical that they preposterously argue about the geological nature of our side as if they know the areas across the demarcation line better than we. As shown in examples from many nations throughout the world, even the construction of a large-scale dam with a limestone base presents no problem. The puppets slandered us by even putting forward the issue of destruction by an earthquake. This is indeed a preposterous act of picking a fight with us.

If the puppets are worried about an earthquake, they should implement safety measures for the Hwachon power station and the Soyanggang power station in their own area, instead of attempting to find fault with the construction of our Kumgangsan power station whose solidity and safety are firmly guaranteed. It is also preposterous for the puppets to distort and fabricate the height of dam in the Kumgangsan power station and the waterhead system.

In the white paper published by the Power Industry Committee, we clearly stated that the height of the Imnam reservoir is 121.5 meters and that water in various reservoirs reach the power station via the nearest waterway tunnels. However, the puppets raved that construction in the Imnam reservoir of a 200-meter-high dam is possible with a bottom of 700 meters in width, and that the Chongok, Naepyeong, and Changan reservoirs are designed to have their water flow into the Imnam reservoir and so forth, thus making preposterous assertions. Their remarks that the height of a dam can be determined according to the width of its bottom are a sophism revealing their own ignorance.

If we were to build a 200-meter-high dam, as the puppets have stated, we would suffer a great deal of economic loss by our own flooding of broad areas. Who will believe that we would do so?

Even if the puppets, who have neither designed the power station nor are involved in its construction, freely fabricate the waterhead system, the water that is supposed to flow in nearby waterways and reach the power station would not gather in the Imnam reservoir by making a long detour. It goes without saying that even if the water in other reservoirs is forced into the Imnam reservoir, this reservoir, whose maximum capacity is 2.6 billion tons, cannot hold this water.

To prove their bankrupt theory of a flooding operation, the puppets adhere to unreasonableness and falsehood. However, they should realize that their act will only lead them into a labyrinth and to their own disgrace.

The proposal of the South Korean puppets to discuss the issue of utilizing water resources and conducting a joint investigation is also nonsensical. We ourselves are constructing a power station according to our national land development plan, and its construction will not cause any harm to South Korea. Why should we discuss and conduct a joint investigation?

The puppets have never discussed with us the dragging into the country of more than 1,000 U.S. nuclear weapons, which are more than sufficient to completely destroy the nation, nor have they heeded our voices opposing the construction of the concrete barriers dividing the country into two. Nevertheless, these rascals proposed to discuss the issue of our peaceful construction. This is indeed shameless.

That the puppets kicked off a commotion by again putting forward the issue of our Kungangsan power station construction has something to do with their situation, in which they are being driven into a corner. The Chon Tu-hwan clique, which is faced with the worst political crisis in the wake of the South Korean people's strong resistance, is attempting to settle the crisis in its rule by using the issue of our Kungangsan power station construction as the last card in the anticommunist smear campaign and slanderous maneuvers and by diverting the people's attention elsewhere, thereby trying to escape from their isolation at home and abroad. However, such an act is a foolish one of wringing one's own neck.

If the South Korean side wants to discuss the issue of the Kungangsan power station construction, it should apologize to us for attempting to damage our dignity while pursuing impure political aims concerning the issue of the power station construction. If the South Korean authorities truly feel threatened by the construction of the Kungangsan power station, they should immediately respond to our peace proposal to hold high-level North-South political and military talks. If they do so, they can discuss the issue of the Kungangsan power station construction at the talks. If the puppets continuously run amok with an anticommunist smear campaign and slanderous maneuvers, ignoring our position and slandering the construction of our Kungangsan power station, they will suffer only bitter consequences.

SUPPORT FOR NORTH-SOUTH TALKS CONTINUE

Soviet Ambassador's Statement

SK160327 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 2300 GMT 15 Jan 87

[Text] On 15 January Nikolay Shubnikov, Soviet ambassador to our country, held a press conference at the Soviet Embassy. The press conference was attended by reporters from newspaper companies, news agencies, and broadcasting stations in Pyongyang, publication functionaries from foreign countries' embassies in our country; and foreign correspondents stationed in our country. At the press conference Ambassador Nikolay Shubnikov made a statement. Indicating that on 10 January, Comrade Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, sent a letter to the secretary general of the United Nations in connection with the termination of the year 1986, which was declared as the year of international peace, he introduced the contents of the letter.

Saying that in the Soviet Union, the Year of International Peace was regarded as a year which gave a boost to the practical action to rescue mankind from the danger of nuclear war, he indicated that last year the CPSU and the Soviet Government advanced a peace-loving initiative for large-scale reduction of nuclear weapons and their complete abolition, thus proving their aspiration for large-scale reduction of nuclear weapons and their complete abolition. He stated that last year the Soviet Union marched with firm direction and aspiration in the interest of world peace, winning support from the socialist countries, reliable allies, and numerous progressive people of the world. He noted that the Soviet Union has advanced a series of initiatives for guaranteeing the security of Asia and the Pacific and has made efforts for their realization.

He said that the Soviet Union has firmly supported the DPRK's efforts to withdraw U.S. forces and nuclear weapons from South Korea, to make the Korean peninsula a nuclear-free zone, and reunify the country democratically and peacefully without the interference of foreign forces.

He said that the DPRK has taken a new step again to alleviate the situation on the Korean peninsula. He continued: The proposal for high level North-South political and military talks advanced by Comrade Kim Il-song, general secretary of the WPK Central Committee and president of the DPRK, in his current policy speech is a constructive step to provide a condition for reunification of the country. He stressed that if the South Korean side is really interested in peace and the peaceful resolution of the Korean question, it should respond to the DPRK's proposal.

GFTUK Leader's Statement

SK170655 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 2100 GMT 16 Jan 87

[Press statement issued by Kim Pong-chu, chairman of GFTUK Central Committee, on 16 January -- read by announcer]

[Text] The constructive step taken by the premier of the DPRK Administration Council and the minister of the People's Armed Forces in proposing to convene high-level North-South political and military talks by sending a letter to the South Korean side according to the nation-saving proposal advanced anew by the great leader in his historic policy speech has won greater support and sympathy from the people at home and abroad over the passage of time.

Considering our proposal to hold high-level North-South political and military talks to be a very rational and opportune nation-saving step toward bringing about a new turning point in detente, reconciliation, and peace in our country. I positively support and welcome this proposal. As is well known, under circumstances in which political and military confrontation has become extremely acute, as seen today, relations between the North and South cannot be improved, nor can we take any step in connection with national unity or reunification. Accordingly, only by discussing and resolving political and military questions between the North and South by holding high-level North-South political and military talks can we open a way toward achieving national reconciliation and detente, hold and experience brisk progress in North-South dialogues in various sectors in a favorable atmosphere, and arrange talks among North and South Korean persons at highest-level authority to resolve basic questions of peace and peaceful reunification. This is a natural law, sensible, and fully convincing to all.

Nevertheless, the South Korean ruling clique has even refused to receive a letter containing our proposal to hold peace talks. In addition, it has obstinately and wantonly contrived impractical and timeworn packages, such as proposals to resume existing dialogues and hold talks among persons with supreme responsibility. Thus, it is trying to replace our rational proposal with these proposals.

It is obvious that if our proposal to hold peace talks is realized and if corresponding good results are attained, problems claimed by South Korean persons in authority will be resolved automatically. Nevertheless, they have unjustly babbled about resuming existing dialogues and talks among persons with supreme responsibility. I consider this an unwillingness to hold dialogue and talks and a criminal attempt to further intensify the political and military confrontation between the North and the South.

We can say so after considering the fact that the South Korean puppets have recently picked a quarrel with us over our peaceful construction of the Kungangsan power plant. Not satisfied with the act of slandering our construction of the Kungangsan power plant by wantonly concocting preposterous and false data and figures, they are carrying out a donation campaign to empty the purses of poor people in the name of building a counter dam. Thus, they have uttered the word discussion and the like.

Today our working class cannot restrain its surging resentment of the South Korean puppets' base act of seeking an impure political aim by designating a peaceful construction project like the Kungangsan power plant to be the target of anticommunist confrontational maneuvers. It is certain that the South Korean puppets have lost reason, and face a crisis of downfall. I strongly demand that instead of clinging to erroneous maneuvers to continuously seek political and military confrontation between the North and South, which runs counter to the people's desire, South Korean persons in authority make a prompt reply to our new proposal to hold peace talks.

16 January 1987, Pyongyang

Yi Tae-ho's Letter to NNSC

SK170833 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 0705 GMT 17 Jan 87

[Text] KPA Major General Yi Tae-ho, senior member of the KPA and CPV delegation to MAC, has sent the following letter today to the Neutral Nations Supervisory Commission [NNSC] in connection with the problem concerning enhancing the authority of the NNSC and organizing the neutral nations inspection forces.

To the NNSC: With my respect to the NNSC, I have the honor of sending this letter in connection with a problem of great significance in bringing an end to the acute state of military tension and ensuring peace and security on the Korean peninsula.

As your commission is aware, Comrade Kim Il-song, the president of the DPRK and the respected and beloved leader of our people, put forward an epochal proposal for national salvation of high-level political and military talks between the North and the South in his historic policy speech at the First Session of the Eighth SPA on 30 December 1986 based on his comprehensive analysis of the grave situation presently existing on the Korean peninsula.

This proposal is a reasonable and realistic new step toward bringing an end to the extreme state of political confrontation and military tension and opening a new breakthrough for peace and peaceful reunification.

If the grave state of political and military confrontation existing on the Korean peninsula today continues as it does, it will lead to a situation in which we cannot avoid another round of war. This situation urgently requires that the role of the NNSC be further enhanced. For this reason, we have proposed discussing in high-level North-South political and military talks the problem of enhancing the authority of the NNSC and organizing the neutral nations inspection forces, and making the Military Demarcation Line and the DMZ a peace zone, as steps toward bringing an end to the state of political and military confrontation.

Our step reflects the sincere position of the government of the republic to ease tension and prevent armed clashes at all costs in areas along the DMZ where enormous armed forces from the two hostile sides confront each other. This step also expresses the lofty trust in, and expectations of, the government of the republic for the member nations of the NNSC, which have carried out work for peace and security on the Korean peninsula for more than 30 years.

We hope that your commission which has made efforts for peace and security on the Korean peninsula, will direct deep attention to our proposal and express your support for, and sympathy with, our efforts to realize this proposal.

Wishing your commission successes in its works, I expect an affirmative reply. I offer my best regards.

KPA Major General Yi Tae-ho,
Senior member of the KPA and the CPV [Chinese People's Volunteers] side,
17 January 1987

Red Cross Delegate's Statement

SK170802 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 2200 GMT 16 Jan 87

[Statement by Yi Chong-yul, head of the DPRK Red Cross delegation, issued on 16 January in Pyongyang -- read by announcer]

[Text] Recognizing our side's proposal for high-level North-South political and military talks to be an epochal national salvation step toward creating an atmosphere favorable to national harmony and unity by eliminating the political confrontation and danger of war being aggravated in our country with each passing day and a step toward resuming and smoothly advancing the suspended dialogue, I fully support and agree with this proposal.

Today our people and the peace-loving people of the world want to see the elimination of political and military confrontation between the North and the South and a breakthrough along the path toward peace and peaceful reunification. In particular, fellow countrymen separated in the North and the South who are painfully experiencing the suffering of the nation's division are anxiously waiting for the time when the severed blood ties are connected again by resuming and pushing ahead with the North-South Red Cross talks on a full scale while recalling with deep emotion the days when the Red Cross artist troupes and the home-visiting groups were exchanged between the North and the South after a long time, using the 40th anniversary of the nation's liberation as the occasion.

That the Red Cross talks have been suspended and not resumed for over a year since the 10th talks, despite such ardent aspirations by the people at home and abroad, is due to the military tension aggravated each day with the continuation of the commotion of large-scale war exercises, including the "Team Spirit" joint military exercise recklessly perpetrated in South Korea, and to the political confrontation that has become more intense with increasing anticommunist commotion against the other side of dialogue. Thus, the elimination of political confrontation and military tension between the North and the South is the priority basic issue to be resolved to create an atmosphere favorable to peace and dialogue in our country and to successfully resolve the reunification issue by resuming the suspended North-South dialogue.

Disregarding such a stern fact, the South Korean side has perpetrated the extremely insolent [muryehan] act of even refusing to receive our letter, instead of sincerely responding to our proposal for high-level North-South political and military talks designed to eliminate the political and military confrontation between the North and the South. Furthermore, in a so-called policy speech, the South Korean side repeatedly talked about resuming the outdated and unrealistic dialogue and talks between persons holding supreme responsibility. In addition, in a so-called joint statement by the heads of the South Korean side's delegations, including the Red Cross delegation, the South Korean side repeated the same remarks.

I consider that such a position by the South Korean side is an insincere attitude that ignores our sincerity and will not serve as the answer to our proposal.

We do not understand at all how the South Korean side can hold a dialogue while threatening the partner in dialogue with nuclear weapons and reiterating that it will achieve reunification under liberal democracy through the extermination of communism. Neither do we understand with what face it will hold talks of persons holding supreme responsibility.

As for the issue of humanitarianism in our country, it cannot be resolved unless the relaxation of tension and national harmony are realized and as long as confrontation and national antagonism continue. This is a painful lesson that we learned from the North-South Red Cross talks which were held many times. Despite this, the South Korean side arbitrarily talks about resuming talks. We cannot but say that this is an unrealistic and irresponsible attitude.

Viewing the South Korean side's attitude toward our new proposal, we believe that such an attitude is the same as the declaration that the South Korean side is not interested in resuming the suspended dialogue ~~but~~ in easing tension even though it talks loudly about dialogue and the relaxation of tension and that it will continue the policy of confrontation in the future.

Whether the South Korean side sends a reasonable reply based on the rightful position of our side's letter which proposes urgently holding high-level North-South political and military talks will be a touchstone on its position toward dialogue, the relaxation of tension, and peaceful reunification.

I strongly call on the South Korean side, if it is interested to even the slightest degree in dialogue, the relaxation of tension, and peaceful reunification, to immediately respond to the high-level North-South political and military talks instead of raving about resuming dialogue and talks between persons holding supreme responsibility, which cannot be realized under practical conditions in our country.

16 January 1987, Pyongyang

Economic Talks Envoy's Statement

SK180704 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 2200 GMT 17 Jan 87

[Text] Yi Song-no, the head of our side's delegation to the North-South economic talks, issued a press statement in connection with the letter from the premier of the DPRK State Administration Council and minister of the People's Armed Forces to the South Korean prime minister and defense minister which contained a concrete proposal for high-level political and military talks. It consists of the following:

Statement by Yi Song-no, head of our side's delegation to the North-South economic talks:

Believing the letter from the premier of the State Administration Council and minister of People's Armed Forces to the South Korean prime minister and defense minister which contained a concrete proposal for arranging high-level North-South political and military talks at an early date to be a very positive measure taken in a timely manner, I fully support and agree with it.

All the people in the North and South ardently hope that the North and the South will resume and normalize the suspended economic talks at an early date and broadly realize economic collaboration and exchanges between the North and the South so as to promote common national interests.

However, such an ardent desire has not been fulfilled because of the continuing state of political confrontation and military tension between the North and the South is the prime source of misunderstanding and distrust among the people and a principal factor that lays a great obstacle before the future of dialogue, detente [wanhwa], and peaceful reunification. That the South side has recently preposterously slandered and attacked the peaceful construction of our Kungangsan power plant by claiming that it is to be used in an attack by flooding and the fact that the North-south economic talks have not been resumed for over a year because of the "Team Spirit" joint military exercises are considered to be good examples to show this.

These facts eloquently show that the issue of eradicating the state of political confrontation and military tension should be solved before anything else to realize collaboration and exchanges between the North and the South, to eradicate the deep-rooted mistrust and misunderstanding, and to achieve breakthrough for dialogue, peace, and peaceful reunification.

As was clearly stated in our recent letter to persons in authority on the South side, it is not necessary to state that the misunderstanding and mistrust between the North and the South will be successfully resolved and the various suspended dialogues resumed and conducted smoothly, if those who hold real political and military power in the North and the South sit in one place to discuss issues designed to eradicate the state of political tension. It is without question that a new turning point would be provided for detente, peace, and reunification. In particular, if the barrier between the North and the South, who have remained isolated from each other, is torn down by resuming the economic talks and national ties were to be promoted by positively conducting economic collaboration and exchanges, the vast amount of funds consumed in the armament competition and national confrontation could be directed to peaceful construction so as to make our country wealthier and our people live happier lives.

However, the South Korean side has not shown a sincere attitude toward our proposal, nor has it given a clear answer to our letter. In a so-called policy statement delivered not long ago, the person in highest authority reiterated the old tune of talks between persons in highest authority and the resumption of dialogue, ignoring our just proposal. The so-called joint statement, published on 14 January, in which even the delegation of the South side to the economic talks memorized the remarks of the person in highest authority, demonstrated once again that the dialogue, detente, and reunification the South Korean side babbles about are all bogus and that what they really pursue are confrontation, war, and division. Such a stand and attitude adopted by the South side, which has shown a negative attitude toward dialogue, peace, and reunification, now arouse indignation among our people as a whole.

I strongly insist that the South Korean side first respond to our proposal for high-level North-South political and military talks if it has even a modicum of interest in dialogue, detente, and reunification, before babbling about such unrealistic subjects as the resumption of dialogue or talks between persons in highest authority.

Availing myself of this opportunity, I believe it proper for the delegation of the South side to the North-South economic talks to exert efforts, as a matter of course, for the South Korean authorities to come to the high-level North-South political and military talks, which will provide preconditions for resuming the economic talks and talks between the persons in highest authority.

[Dated] 17 January 1987, Pyongyang

UN Secretary General's Support

SK180827 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0818 GMT 18 Jan 87

[Text] Pyongyang January 18 (KCNA) -- U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar, on January 9 met Pak Kil-yon, chief of the permanent observer mission of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to the United Nations.

The U.N. secretary general said the proposal for holding North-South high-level political and military talks put forward by the great leader President Kim Il-song was an innovative and constructive one.

The proposal for North-South high-level political and military talks is one of weighty significance because the talks encompass both political and military domains, he noted. He hoped that the proposal would be a starting point of the excellent development in relations between the North and the South of Korea.

The conversation took place in a friendly atmosphere.

LSWYK Chairman's Statement

SK190711 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 2100 GMT 18 Jan 87

[Statement issued by Choe Yong-hae, chairman of the LSWYK Central Committee, on 17 January in Pyongyang]

[Text] On 11 January, the premier of the DRPK State Administration Council and the minister of the People's Armed Forces sent to the South Korean side a letter containing a concrete proposal for holding high-level North-South political and military talks. This is the most realistic and patriotic measure. Reasonable concrete issues to be discussed in the talks and even the date when the talks will be held -- 27 January -- are mentioned in the letter that our side sent. This clearly shows a noble love of country and the nation to achieve a new breakthrough in resolving at any cost the reunification issue and to provide bright prospects for peace and peaceful reunification for all fellow countrymen -- marking the new year -- by starting the new year with the work of improving North-South relations. Therefore, our LSWYK members and youths, who ardently wish to build a prosperous and powerful reunified fatherland by uniting with the youths in the North and South, unanimously support the proposal for holding high-level North-South political and military talks and hope for its early realization.

However, running counter to the expectations of our youths, the persons in authority in South Korea take an insincere attitude. The South Korean rulers committed the impolite act of refraining from receiving the letter containing our new proposal. Moreover, on 12 January, during a so-called policy speech, they reiterated stereotyped remarks, such as talks between the highest responsible persons and the resumption of existing dialogues, and talked gibberish by finding fault with even the construction of the Kungangsan power station. Before he spoke about talks between the highest responsible persons or other things, the traitor should have looked back upon, even once, what took place last year. As is well known, last year we expressed our position on successfully holding multisided dialogues and, moreover, arranging highest-level talks and made every effort to realize it. However, together with the U.S. imperialists, the South Korean puppets conducted the "Team Spirit-86" joint military exercise and other large-scale war exercises from the outset of the year, thereby deliberately suspending North-South dialogue and casting a dark cloud over the prospects for highest-level talks. As if they forgot what they did last year, not several years ago, they recklessly talked about talks between the highest responsible persons and the resumption of dialogue. This is really shameless.

Only when one talks logically can one win sympathy from others. Recognizing that the remarks of the South Korean rulers reiterated during their policy speech cannot be a sincere reply to our letter, I demand that they make a reply to our peace proposal, an reply that can convince our youths and the entire nation. This is the inescapable duty of the persons in authority in South Korea. The people of the world are watching the attitude of the persons in authority in South Korea.

I urge the persons in authority in South Korea to make a resolute decision on our just proposal for holding North-South political and military talks, instead of reiterating the remarks about talks between the highest responsible persons and the resumption of dialogue, which are not realistic at all, if they sincerely hope for the alleviation of tension, dialogue, and peaceful reunification.

[Dated] 17 January 1987, Pyongyang

Chongnyon Supports Talks

SK200421 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0413 GMT 20 Jan 87

[Text] Pyongyang January 19 (KCNA) -- Functionaries of the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan (Chongnyon) in their press statements issued in support of the proposal for North-South high-level political and military talks stressed that the proposal was a new and most patriotic one for national salvation.

Pae Pyong-tu, chairman of the Tokyo metropolitan headquarters of Chongnyon, said: reflected in the proposal for North-South high-level political and military talks advanced by the great leader Marshal Kim Il-song are the firm stand and will of the Workers' Party of Korea and the government of the republic to remove the distrust and confrontation and promote trust and unity between the fellow countrymen, prevent the danger of war, ensure peace and, further, achieve the reunification of the country in a peaceful way.

The South Korean authorities must not clamour that someone was "planning to invade the South" with the 1988 Olympic Games ahead and the construction of the Kungangsan power station was for "flooding operation", but get withdrawn from South Korea at once nuclear weapons which are more than enough to exterminate all the Korean nation, he declared.

Yi Mal-sang, chairman of the Osaka prefectural headquarters of Chongnyon, stated that the proposal for North-South high-level political and military talks was an important one for making a breakthrough for peace in the country and its peaceful reunification.

Kim Yong-hak, chairman of the Fukuoka prefectural headquarters of Chongnyon, noted: If this proposal is translated into practice, dialogues in various domains will be promoted successfully and, further, it will be possible to open North-South summit talks to discuss fundamental problems for the realisation of the country's reunification.

No one who is truly concerned about the grave situation prevailing on the Korean peninsula today and desires peace in the country and its peaceful reunification, can turn his face away from this new nation-saving proposal.

FOLLOW-UP STATEMENT ON NORTH-SOUTH TALKS ISSUED

SK210403 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 0100 GMT 21 Jan 87

[Text] The spokesmen for the DPRK State Administration Council and the Ministry of the People's Armed Forces on 21 January issued a joint statement in connection with the passage of 10 days since the premier of the DPRK State Administration Council and the minister of the People's Armed Forces sent a letter concerning the holding of high-level North-South political and military talks to the South Korean prime minister and minister of National Defense. Presented here is the full text of the statement.

Joint Statement of the Spokesmen for the DPRK State Administration Council and the Ministry of the People's Armed Forces:

As is already known, the premier of the DPRK State Administration Council and the minister of the People's Armed Forces on 11 January sent a letter concerning a proposal for high-level North-South political and military talks to the South Korean prime minister and minister of National Defense.

Our new proposal for peace talks is an epochal step toward bringing an end to the state of political confrontation and military tension between the North and the South, promoting national reconciliation and unity, and opening a breakthrough for reunification. This initiative is a clear manifestation of a patriotic and nation-loving position that reflects the firm will of all fellow countrymen to bring an end to distrust and confrontation between fellow countrymen, to promote trust and unity, to prevent war and ensure peace on the Korean peninsula, and, further, to realize the reunification of the country by peaceful means.

All the Korean people and the peace-loving people of the world now actively support the proposal for high-level North-South political and military talks, and they eagerly await the talks being held at an early date. Yet the South Korean persons in authority have sent us no reply, even up to today, 10 days after we sent the letter concerning the new peace proposal

We consider the South Korean persons in authority to be aware that mentioning the resumption of existing dialogue and talks by the highest persons in authority, which they repeated in the policy speech sometime ago, does replace a reply to our new proposal for high-level North-South political and military talks.

Our proposal for high-level North-South political and military talks is a most reasonable peace initiative toward opening a breakthrough for the alleviation of tension, peace, and peaceful reunification. Therefore, realizing this proposal is the best way to resume the suspended dialogue between the North and the South and to facilitate highest level talks. This means that the new peace talks we have proposed are an urgent problem that must be realized before the assertions of the South Korean persons in authority, and if they are realized, the demand of the South Korean side will naturally be solved.

For this reason, we maintain that holding high-level North-South political and military talks should not be delayed any longer, but should be realized at an early date.

Our new proposal takes into consideration the interests of both sides and contains no personal interests [sasim] or conditions. Therefore, the South Korean persons in authority should have no reason not to accept it. The question concerns the fundamental position of whether or not they desire dialogue and peace between the North and the South and reunification. We maintain that if the South Korean persons in authority do not desire confrontation, war, and division, they should accept our proposal for high-level North-South political and military talks. We will continuously and patiently wait for them to send us an affirmative reply at an early date.

21 January 1987, Pyongyang.

CHON'S REFERENCE TO 'CRUCIAL STEP' CRITICIZED

SK160509 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0450 GMT 16 Jan 87

[Text] Pyongyang January 16 (KCNA) -- Traitor Chon Tu-hwan, in his "state-of-the-nation speech," threatened that the people demanding democracy would be branded as "pro-communist cores" and "a stern measure would be taken against them with the exercise of all constitutional powers" and that "a crucial step" would be taken in case the "parliamentary cabinet system" sought by his group was not accepted.

This outcry comes under fire in NODONG SINMUN and MINJU CHOSON today.

A signed commentary of NODONG SINMUN says that the violent language of the traitor Chon Tu-hwan and the moves of the puppets for putting it into a concrete form are an open threat to the patriotic democratic forces growing in strength in South Korea and a declaration of war intimating that they would not stop at a sweeping fascist action for the extension of the power of the Chon Tu-hwan military gang and the realisation of the intrigues of the "Democratic Justice Party" for staying in power long.

The commentary says:

The traitor Chon Tu-hwan's threatening outbursts about "exercise of constitutional powers" and "crucial step" are not words heard very often. This suggests that the fascist rowdyism threatening South Korea will spell a bloodbath never seen under any dictatorship or in any time of the course of the usurpation of power by the Chon Tu-hwan gang and its strong arm rule. This is made more certain by the movement behind the curtain of the South Korean political scene of the former U.S. ambassador who commanded the Kwangju massacre on the spot and the present U.S. ambassador and other U.S. field servitors.

By his phraseology of "exercise of constitutional powers" and "crucial step" Chon Tu-hwan the puppet meant to stifle all the forces standing in the way of his power by the motion of "emergency measures" as the "Yusin" dictator did in the last days of his power and ram through the "National Assembly" the "parliamentary cabinet system" by bossing the show there or stay in power on the strength of the present "constitution."

The puppet's scheme to resort to hysteric repression reveals his extreme uneasiness and fear.

FUROR OVER SEOUL STUDENT'S DEATH CONTINUES

President Expresses 'Regret'

SK200915 Seoul YONHAP in English 0825 GMT 20 Jan 87

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 20 (YONHAP) -- Korean President Chon Tu-hwan Tuesday expressed regret over the death of a student activist tortured by police officers. He told the police to redouble their efforts to prevent the occurrence of such incidents in the future. Chon made the instruction after receiving a report from Home Affairs Minister Kim Chong-ho on the ministry's major policy goals for this year.

"I ask police to devote themselves to enhancing the level of their qualities and characters to help prevent similar incidents and to reinforce scientific investigative ability," the president said. His directive was in reference to the death of Pak Chong-chol, a Seoul National University student who died last week while under police interrogation for his alleged role in anti-government activities.

Chon also instructed the ministry, which controls the national police, to deal resolutely with any move challenging the free democratic system and activities promoting the pro-communist, pro-Pyongyang cause.

"The establishment of legal order and social stability is essential for Korea to achieve its impending national tasks," Chon said, apparently in reference to the Seoul Olympics and the transfer of governmental power, both scheduled for next year.

Prosecution Speeds Probe

SK210124 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 21 Jan 87 p 3

[Text] The prosecution plans to conclude its probe into the death of a Seoul National University student at the earliest possible date, a high-ranking prosecutor said yesterday.

Chong Ku-yong, chief of the Seoul District Prosecution, said that the decision was made as the prosecution has identical views with those of police on the cause of Pak Chong-chol's death last Wednesday.

Police announced Monday that Pak was suffocated to death as his neck was pressed hard against the edge of a bathtub while two interrogators dunked his head into the tub.

Chong indicated that the prosecution will conclude the probe within this week and indict the two officers early next week.

He disclosed that the two officers, Lt. Cho Han-kyong, 42, and Sgt. Kang Chin-kyu, 30, were moved from the Sodaemun Police Station jail to Yongdungpo Prison yesterday morning.

Senior prosecutor Sin Chang-on and prosecutor An Sang-su questioned the policemen at the prison throughout yesterday over the controversial death allegedly caused by the two officers.

It was learned that the prosecution will take the two policemen to the interrogation room soon and let them reenact how they actually tortured the student.

The prosecution also heard testimony by Dr. Hwang Chok-chun of the National Institute of Scientific Investigation who performed an autopsy on the body of the student last Thursday.

Chong denied the allegation contained in a report of the opposition New Korea Democratic Party that Pak must have died of an electric shock.

"It is least possible. Medical doctors can easily tell of the use of electricity once they examine the body. No medical doctor has ever mentioned about it," he said.

Sources said that the prosecution is questioning the two detained officers to determine if there was tortures inflicted on Pak by other methods than what was announced by police.

It was learned that the prosecution will try to determine whether the 19 scars and bruises on Pak's body were caused by torture or in the course of taking him from his boarding house to the police Wednesday morning.

The investigators will also try to determine exactly when he was whisked away to the police and why the body was cremated "hurriedly" on Friday.

Announcing the results of its own investigation Monday, the National Police Headquarters said Pak was taken to the police from his boarding house around 8:10 a.m. last Wednesday. But the landlady alleged he had not returned home the previous night.

There also is an allegation that the cremation, executed two days after the death, made it no longer possible to check the body again.

NKDP Disputes Cause of Death

SK210111 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 21 Jan 87 p 2

[Text] The opposition New Korea Democratic Party alleged yesterday that the death of Pak Chong-chol, a junior of Seoul National University, was due to "torture by electricity," not by water as announced by police.

The main opposition party based the allegation on an interim report of its own fact-finding panel consisting of 13 lawmakers.

Presenting the report, Rep. Pak Chan-chong, a member of the probe team, quoted a relative of Pak and a doctor who saw Pak's body as saying that there was evidence of injury between his thumbs and index fingers.

The injury apparently resulted from "electricity torture," Rep. Pak asserted.

Pak noted that it is customary for water torture to precede electricity torture.

Police said Monday that Pak was throttled when two police officers tried to plunge his head into a bath of water while questioning him about providing shelter to a student radical wanted by police.

Rep. Pak insisted that the student was taken to the police station where he was interrogated and killed around midnight of Jan. 14, not 8 a.m. on the same day as announced by police.

Expressing doubts over the results of the police investigation, the probe team urged the prosecution to conduct a thorough inquiry into the death of the student.

In the report, the team said that there are "at least" 56 persons missing, presumed held by police for interrogation without their family members being notified.

It called upon the authorities concerned to announce their whereabouts.

NKDP Wants Plenary Session

SK210103 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 21 Jan 87 p 1

[Text] Rival political parties disagreed yesterday over whether to convene a special National Assembly session to look into the torture death of Pak Chong-chol, a Seoul National University student.

Floor leaders of the three major parties met at the Assembly but failed to narrow their differences. They decided to meet again today.

The ruling Democratic Justice Party proposed two committees -- Home Affairs and Legislative-Judiciary. It, however, rejected an opposition call for a plenary session.

The opposition New Korea Democratic and Korea National Parties jointly called for a full Assembly session.

They demanded that parliament set up a special investigative committee to probe the death of the SNU student.

Pledging to take joint steps, the opposition parties said they will not agree to convene only committee sessions without holding a plenary meeting.

They said that if the DJP does not change its attitude, they will consider calling a full parliamentary session by themselves.

Rep. Yi Han-tong, floor leader of the government party, said the DJP will not accept the opposition demand for a plenary session, noting that parliament is not entitled to interfere in an on-going investigation under constitutional provisions.

He said the majority party plans deliberations on the torture death incident in two committees -- Home Affairs and Legislative-Judiciary -- around Friday.

He said it would be better to deal with the incident in the two relevant committees rather than in a plenary session, arguing that all the cabinet ministries are not involved.

Rep. Kim Hyon-kyu of the main opposition NKDP asserted that a full Assembly session should be held in order to discuss ways of rooting out torture.

If the DJP continues to reject the call for a parliamentary session, the opposition party may stage a sit-in in the Assembly, Kim said.

In a related development, DJP Chairman No Tae-u is slated to hold a press conference tomorrow. He is expected to express regrets over the death of the university student and to disclose plans to eliminate police brutality.

No is also likely to announce plans to promote democratization and expand freedom of the press, according to party sources.

Meanwhile, the opposition NKDP held a meeting of key officeholders to reconfirm its demand for the resignations of the home affairs minister and the director general of national police.

It also urged a "resolute decision" by the President.

The opposition party instructed its chapters across the country to set up altars to mourn the death of Pak and to hang placards denouncing police torture.

Yi Min-u Threatens Rally

SK210106 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 21 Jan 87 p 1

[Text] The major opposition New Korea Democratic Party yesterday reiterated its call for convocation of a special National Assembly session to probe the death by torture of a university student.

Party president Yi Min-u threatened to launch extra Assembly struggles by the NKDP in conjunction with other opposition organizations if the ruling party rejects their demand.

The NKDP also called for the establishment of a select Assembly committee to probe torture cases.

The opposition party made the calls at a meeting of the Executive Council, the party's top decision-making body.

In a resolution released after the meeting, the NKDP demanded basic, institutional improvement, including revision of the Code of Criminal Procedure, to root out torture.

The party also decided to form its own standing body to counter torture.

In addition, the NKDP demanded the dismissal of the home minister and the director general of the national police, holding them responsible for the death of Pak Chong-chol, Seoul National University student, during interrogation.

After the meeting, NKDP president Yi told reporters that his party may hold a mass rally to condemn torture if the ruling Democratic Justice Party rejects their call for a special Assembly sitting.

ROK CONSTRUCTION MINISTER ON KUMANGSAN DAM

SK170216 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 17 Jan 87 p 2

["Answers given by Minister of Construction Yi Kyu-hyo to questions on the construction of Mt Kungang Dam by North Korea" at a press conference held on 16 January in Seoul]

[Text] Question: You said that the height of the Mt. Kungang Dam can be higher than that north Korea earlier announced. Please give more details.

Answer: It was known that the north was planning the construction of the Mt. Kungang Power Station from the early 1980s, but no information was made available.

The Seoul government tried to find out the size and other information about the dam construction scheme. Even after the north embarked on the construction work on Oct. 21 last year, no detailed information was made available except that the north was constructing a "stream diversion system" dam to maximize use of the water resources in the Kangwon-do area.

Then, north Korea, at the Nov. 27, 1986 issue of NODONG SINMUN, announced that the reservoir capacity of the dam will be 3.6 billion metric tons, which is far lower than the 20 billion tons the South estimated.

On Dec. 25, the north announced a "white paper" to counterattack the south's continuous demand to immediately suspend the construction work and to jointly develop the river crossing the south and the north for the peaceful purpose. But the content of the "white paper" as to specifications of the dam was different from that it earlier announced, showing that the north is trying to conceal its intention.

The north, in its white paper, said that the width of the bottom of the dam will be 700 meters long and there will be no accidental safety problem as the south asserts.

But the north's assertion is fabricated as the experts both at home and abroad said the height of the proposed dam would be minimum 160 meters and maximum 230 meters if the width of the bottom is 700 meters long as the north announced.

Q: If the actual height of the dam would be between 160 meters and 230 meters as you said, what would be the total water storage capacity of the dam, when completed?

A: The north announced that the storage capacity of the dam will be 2,624 million tons when its height will be 121.5 meters high. But experts say that the actual reservoir capacity of a 121.5-meter-high dam is 3,725 million tons, which is much bigger than that north Korea announced.

If the dam would be 160 meters high, the storage capacity would be 8.7 billion tons and the volume will reach 26 billion tons if the height would be 230 meters.

Q: North Korea announced that it will build several big-scaled dams and connect them to make use of the water resources. Is this method economically efficient? And is there any other way to make use of the water resources without connecting water flow of Imjin River to Pukhan (North Han) River.

A: The Mt. Kungang Power Station is a water-way-type hydroelectric power plant to be generated with the water flowing from several trenches of Imjin River and Pukhan River which will be connected to the Mt. Kungang Dam.

As the Imjin River is designed to be connected with the conventional type of flowing water from a high position to the lower one by establishing two main dams and six other water collection-type dams, the height of those dams have to be unnecessarily high, costing too much. A water-collection type on the lower stream of the Changan Dam, for example, should be constructed with a height of 100 meters to make the dam, whose annual water flow stands at a mere 20 million tons under the normal condition, capable of storing about 100 million tons. So, this construction method is very inefficient economically.

Q: You have previously mentioned that the waters of north Korea's dams on Imjin River could naturally flow into the reservoirs of Mt. Kungang Dam. Please give details on your earlier remarks.

A: If Mt. Kungang Dam is 121.5 meters high as unveiled by north Korea, its highest water level will come to 321.5 meters above the sea level.

The maximum water level of Chongok Dam of 118 meters high on the upper reach of Pukhan River is estimated at 463 meters above the sea level. The highest water level of Changan Dam on Imjin River and Naepyong Dam in Komitanchon will be 375 meters and 368 meters above the sea level, respectively.

The waters of above-mentioned four dams and nearby six others overflowed will reportedly converge into an auxiliary dam (regulation dam) of Mt. Kungang Dam. Given this, the highest water level of the auxiliary dam is estimated at 320 meters, lower than that of Mt. Kungang Dam.

Q: The north has argued that Mt. Kungang Dam will not pose a threat whatsoever to the south as its maximum water storage capacity and average reservoirs capacity will remain as low as 2.6 billion tons and 1.8 billion tons. It also said that it could only store about 600 million tons or so at the dry season. Please comment on this assertion.

A: North Korea is now under mounting fire from the world on the construction of the Mt. Kungang Dam.

Any collapse of the mammoth dam could mean a catastrophe to the south.

In a word, north Korea has violated the international practice of "common use of shared rivers."

For north Korea, there is no other option but to assert that Mt. Kungang is designed as purely economical purpose in order to defuse the international criticism and cool off the outrage of the south.

Q: Would you tell us the views of foreign experts, if there has been any, on the geological conditions of the construction site of the Mt. Kungang Dam?

A: The analysis of foreign geologists informed us that the bedrock of the controversial dam site consists of weak limestone layer, highly exposed to the danger of water leakage by the hydraulic pressure.

Q: Specifically, why do you think the upperstream area of North Han River, comprising limestone strata, is quite unsuitable as the construction site of the hydroelectric dam?

A: The geologists said that the limestone is easily dissolved by underground water, creating a cave between the strata, which result in leakage of water. That will cause problems in water storage, and the crumble of the subterranean caves will sink down the bedrock, posing grave problem for the dam's safety.

PRIME MINISTER TO VISIT WEST EUROPEAN COUNTRIES

SK170357 Seoul YONHAP in English 0102 GMT 17 Jan 87

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 17 (YONHAP) -- South Korean Prime Minister No Sin-yong will leave here Sunday afternoon on a 16-day tour of five European countries. No's European trip, which follows President Chon Tu-hwan's official visits to four other European nations last April, will be made at the invitations of the prime ministers of the Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, Denmark and Italy.

During his tour, No will meet with Prime Ministers Ruud Lubbers of the Netherlands, Cavaco Silva of Portugal, Felipe Gonzalez of Spain, Poul Schluter of Denmark and Bettino Craxi of Italy. In his talks with the leaders, No will discuss ways to further promote bilateral relations, as well as recent international and regional developments. The Korean premier is also scheduled to meet with the five nations' heads of state and parliamentary leaders.

No's tour will further help consolidate Korea's existing bonds and cooperative ties with those European Economic Community member countries, a spokesman for the premier's office said. The trip is also expected to raise interest in Korea among the peoples of those countries and to reaffirm their unwavering support for the 1988 Seoul Summer Olympics, he added.

No will be accompanied on his trip by O Chae-hui, vice foreign minister, Yun Sok-sun, secretary-general to the prime minister, and other ranking officials, as well as 10 leading businessmen. He is scheduled to return home on Feb. 6. According to No's itinerary, he will visit the Netherlands from Jan. 20 to 22, Portugal from Jan. 22 to 24, Spain from Jan. 26 to 28, Denmark from Jan. 28 to 31 and Italy from Feb. 2 to 5.

No To Visit Netherlands

For reportage on the 2-day visit to the Netherlands by Prime Minister No Sin-yong, including meetings with Netherlands Prime Minister Ruud Lubbers and Foreign Minister Hans van den Broek, see the Benelux section of the 21 January issue of the Western Europe DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

BATMONH RECEIVES VISITING SOVIET OFFICIAL

OW201738 Ulaanbaatar MONTSAME in English 1657 GMT 20 Jan 87

[Text] Ulaanbaatar, 20 January (MONTSAME) -- General secretary of the Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party Central Committee, Presidium Chairman of the MPR Great People's Hural J. Batmonh received USSR Deputy Foreign Minister I.A. Rogachev, who is on a working visit to this country, on 19 January.

They had a friendly exchange of views on the questions of Mongol-Soviet cooperation and pressing international issues.

J. Batmonh expressed satisfaction with the high level of the wide-ranging and dynamic Mongol-Soviet cooperation, and with the active interaction of the two countries in the foreign policy field.

Speaking about the outcomes of 1986, the UN-declared International Year of Peace, J. Batmonh noted that the important initiatives and proposals of the Soviet Union and the other socialist community countries exerted their positive influence and strengthened the peace potential.

The programme of eliminating all types of mass annihilation weapons by the end of this century, made public a year ago by the Soviet leader M. Gorbachev, opened a new stage in the peoples' struggle for eliminating the threat of nuclear war, creating an all-embracing system of international security. The Soviet-American summit at Reykjavik proved the feasibility of this programme and gave to the struggle for setting up a nuclear-weapon-free world a new and palpable perspective.

J. Batmonh highly evaluated the intransient significance of the Soviet initiatives formulated by M. Gorbachev in Vladivostok for strengthening peaceful, equitable and mutually beneficial cooperation among Asia-Pacific states. The Mongolian party and state leader pointed out that the decision of the Soviet leadership made upon agreement of the MPR Government to withdraw a substantial part of Soviet troops from the territory of the MPR was an act of goodwill which undoubtedly would serve to the strengthening of trust and mutual understanding among Far Eastern states, the ensuring of peace and security in the Asia-Pacific region.

The meeting was attended by D. Yondon, MPR first deputy foreign minister, and K. Ye. Fomichenko, the USSR ambassador to the MPR.

ARMY PAPER VIEWS MPR-USSR RELATIONS, COOPERATION

OW201746 Ulaanbaatar MONTSAME in English 1703 GMT 20 Jan 87

[Text] Ulaanbaatar, 20 January (MONTSAME) -- The combat cooperation of the peoples and Armed Forces of the MPR and USSR is a logical consequence of the alliance established between the struggle of the Mongolian people for national and social liberation with the revolutionary struggle of the victorious proletariat of the Soviet Russia. It has stood with honour the test of time, "ULAAN OD", the MPR Army paper writes.

Elaborating on the main stages of the development of this combat cooperation, the paper notes that the historic experience of uniting military forces for defending the gains of revolution from inner and outer counterrevolutionary encroachments, by its significance goes far beyond bilateral relations. This experience has been creatively enriched in the course of forming and strengthening the world socialist community.

The active foreign policy of the Soviet Union and the other socialist countries including the MPR is a decisive factor of ensuring peace and security in the Asia-Pacific region.

In his Vladivostok speech (July 1986), the Soviet leader M. Gorbachev for the first time touched upon the question concerning the partial withdrawal of Soviet troops from the territory of the MPR. Noting this fact, the Army paper recalls the words of J. Batmonh who said that "The agreement between the MPR and the USSR on withdrawing a substantial part of Soviet troops from the territory of the MPR meets the lofty objectives of strengthening peace in Asia, creating an atmosphere of trust and mutual understanding, and promoting goodneighbourly relations among the states of this continent", the paper underscores.

CEMA SCIENTIFIC, TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETS

OW150339 Ulaanbaatar MONTSAME in Russian 1500 GMT 14 Jan 87

[Text] Ulaanbaatar, 14 Jan (MONTSAME) -- A meeting of the CEMA committee on scientific and technical cooperation opened here today. Delegates from the People's Republic of Bulgaria, the Hungarian People's Republic, GDR, SRV, Republic of Cuba, MPR, Socialist Republic of Romania, USSR, CSSR, and SFRY are participating in the work of the meeting.

The participants will consider progress in the realization of the package program for the scientific and technical process of member-countries of CEMA up to the year 2000, goals of scientific instrument construction, and cooperation in the area of microprocessor techniques. The agenda also includes assistance in the development of the MPR scientific-experimental base.

HUN SEN ATTENDS EDUCATION MINISTRY MEETING

BK210245 Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 1300 GMT 20 Jan 87

[Text] After proceeding successfully for 3 days, the meeting held at the Cambodian-Soviet Friendship School of High Technology to discuss work relating to higher and technical education in the 1985-86 school year ended on the afternoon of 19 January. The closing ceremony was chaired by Comrade Hun Sen, member of the party Central Committee Political Bureau and chairman of the Council of Ministers.

During the 3-day session, the participants exchanged views and discussed various issues. They totally agreed with the report summing up higher and technical education in the 1985-86 school year and jointly set targets for implementation in the coming years. They also listened to reports by various educational institutions which underlined various new experiences for further development in the field of higher, technical, and vocational education. Through their discussions, the participants noted strong points, as well as weak points to be avoided and improved.

Speaking on that occasion, Comrade Hun Sen highly valued the achievements made by the personnel in charge of higher and technical education. He also exhorted all present to pay attention to strengthening the higher and technical education institution in order to serve all the activities to give better education to the youths in next generations, thus enabling them to become strong and totally qualified genuine revolutionary forces.

VOK: SIHANOUK READY TO HOLD TALKS WITH VIETNAM

BK210648 (Clandestine) Voice of the Khmer in Cambodian 0500 GMT 21 Jan 87

[Text] Vietnam wants to hold talks on a cease-fire agreement and on the withdrawal of Vietnamese troops from Cambodia with a Cambodian coalition government comprising the Heng Samrin side and the three other parties of the CGDK. Vietnam proposed that the CGDK and the Heng Samrin regime meet for talks in Bucharest, capital of Romania, on setting up this 4-party coalition government.

President Nicolae Ceausescu told Samdech Norodom Sihanouk about this Vietnamese proposal on 12 January during the samdech's visit to Romania. The Romanian president said Vietnam has not only proposed Bucharest as the venue for the meeting between the CGDK and the Heng Samrin regime but also specified that Vietnam is ready to hold talks on a cease-fire agreement in Cambodia and on the withdrawal of Vietnamese forces from Cambodia with the 4-party Cambodian coalition government suggested by Vietnam.

However, Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, head of the CGDK, said the meeting between him and Heng Samrin might mislead people into thinking that the conflict in Cambodia is only among Cambodians. The samdech said Vietnam is the aggressor in Cambodia. He said he is ready to hold talks with Vietnam and would not object to the participation of the Heng Samrin regime as part of the Vietnamese delegation.

The Romanian president welcomed various victories of the CGDK on the battlefield in Cambodia. In talks with Samdech Norodom Sihanouk in 1982, President Ceausescu appealed for national reconciliation among all Cambodian parties and the setting up of a Cambodian national government. President Nicolae Ceausescu told Samdech Norodom Sihanouk that he is ready to meet Son Sann and Khieu Samphan, the other two leaders of the CGDK, to express this Romanian view, if these two leaders agreed to go to Bucharest to discuss this.

OFFICIAL STATEMENT ON U.S., THAI ARMS STOCKPILE

BK161259 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 1200 GMT 16 Jan 87

["Text" of statement by LPDR Foreign Affairs Ministry spokesman on the setting up of a U.S. arms stockpile in Thailand; dated 16 January]

[Text] As is known by all, on 9 January 1987 Thailand's Defense Minister, Air Chief Marshal Phaniang Kantarat, and U.S. Ambassador to Bangkok William Brown signed an agreement to set up a U.S. arms stockpile in Thailand under the pretext of ensuring any urgent need for military weapons by Thailand during an emergency situation. When this Thai-U.S. agreement goes into effect, the Kingdom of Thailand will become the first country in Southeast Asia which has an overseas U.S. arms depot without the presence of U.S. military forces. This agreement has been signed at a time when all Thai people are making preparations to celebrate the 60th birthday of His Majesty the King of Thailand. This is another U.S. attempt to return its military presence in the Kingdom of Thailand since its defeat in the Indochina war in 1975.

The U.S. action in Thailand this time also shows new joint war preparations between Thailand and the United States, thus creating tension in Southeast Asia and posing a direct threat to the security of the countries in this region, especially the three Indochinese countries, because both the United States and Thailand regard the three countries as their enemies.

The LPDR Foreign Affairs Ministry strongly opposes the Thai-U.S. agreement on the establishment of a U.S. arms stockpile on Thai soil because it will become a most favorable condition for creating a military confrontation between the two groups of countries in Southeast Asia. To better ensure the security of the Kingdom of Thailand, the Thai Government should sign a treaty of peace and nonaggression with the Indochinese countries as they have suggested on several occasions.

Because the LPDR is a neighboring country lying next to the Kingdom of Thailand, the signing of the agreement on the establishment of the arms stockpile is regarded as a violation of the content and spirit of the 1979 Lao-Thai joint communiques in which the two sides pledged to refrain from threatening or using force against each other and from allowing other countries to use their territories as a base for interfering, threatening, or aggressing against other countries in whatever forms. The Lao Government and people once again reiterate their just and correct policy in making preparations and cooperating with the Thai people and the other people in Southeast Asia to oppose all dangerous acts and threats against peace, stability, and security in this region and in the world and firmly believe that the Thai people will not allow their country to be a place for rekindling the war in this region.

[Dated] Vientiane, 16 January 1987

VIENTIANE RECALLS 'HISTORIC' LAM-SON OPERATION

BK190926 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 0430 GMT 17 Jan 87

[Feature: "Recall the Historic Lam Son-719 Operation"]

[Summary] The historic Lam Son-719 operation was carried out by more than 20,000 Saigon puppet soldiers supported by between 1,500 and 2,000 U.S. soldiers from the Marine Corps, armored units, and the U.S. Air Force.

"On 8 February 1971, the Pentagon under the command of warmongering President Nixon instructed Nguyen Van Thieu, the faithful lackey, to send the Saigon puppet forces to launch a large-scale operation against the areas along Route 9 in central Laos, aimed at capturing Sepon [in Savannakhet Province] so that they would be able to take control of Route 9 in accordance with their military strategy and proceed to seize Mouang Phin, Donghen, Phalan, Seno, and the entire territory of Savannakhet Province, hoping to link that battlefield with that in South Vietnam and to create a bridge linking South Vietnam and Thailand."

At first, they deployed some 10,000 soldiers airlifted by helicopters into the areas along Route 9 to seize various peaks. To support the operation, the U.S. imperialists and the Saigon puppet clique set up a chain of supply routes, both on the ground and in the air, along Route 9 and in Quang Tri Province in South Vietnam. At the same time, the U.S. imperialists also instructed the Vientiane puppet clique to press youths into military service to become their cannon fodder and to order three battalions of the Lao puppet special forces to launch operations in the areas west and south of Route 9 in order to link with the U.S.-airlifted Saigon puppet forces east of Route 9.

The operation was a grave mistake by the U.S. imperialists and their henchmen. They were relentlessly counterattacked and encircled by our armed forces in many areas.

Beginning on 12 February 1971, our army and people launched attacks against the enemy aggressors, wiping out several battalions of paratroops and commandos from the Saigon puppet forces. From 19 to 26 February, "our patriotic forces managed to put out of action more than 5,000 puppet soldiers, including paratroops, commandos, and infantrymen, and to shoot down some 250 U.S. aircraft." "From 1 to 31 March 1971, our patriotic forces and people attacked an enemy paratroop regiment and a combined armored division at a peak north of (Ban Boun) and Houai Kasi, killing some 100 enemy soldiers on the spot, destroying 54 tanks, and shooting down and damaging 37 aircraft." "From 8 February to 10 March 1971, our armed forces and people in Savannakhet Province put nearly 10,000 Saigon puppet soldiers out of action, shot down and damaged more than 500 aircraft, seized and destroyed more than 400 armored vehicles and tanks, and seized and destroyed a large quantity of war materiel."

Those victories clearly showed that no force nor modern weapons and war materiel were able to daunt the spirit of patriotism of the Lao people and army.

KAYSONE PHOMVIHAN ADDRESSES ECONOMIC CONFERENCE

BK151440 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 1200 GMT 15 Jan 87

[Text] This morning [15 January], Comrade Kaysone Phomvihan, general secretary of the LPRP Central Committee and chairman of the Council of Ministers, had the honor to give a lecture to the participants attending the national conference to review work on transformation of economic management mechanisms, which began on 12 January in Vientiane capital. Attending the lecture given by Comrade General Secretary Kaysone Phomvihan were comrade members of the Political Bureau and the Secretariat of the party Central Committee, members of the party Central Committee, ministers and deputy ministers, and representatives from various production bases throughout the country.

In his lecture, Comrade General Secretary Kaysone Phomvihan highly valued the conference as a milestone for our country to enter into a new phase of economic management and to totally turn the economic sectors to socialist business production.

The comrade said: The application of this work is very complicated and is still very new for our country in advancing to eliminate the old economic management mechanisms and to create new ones suitable for the current realistic situation and conditions in our country. Therefore, we must concentrate efforts on upgrading and raising the standard of the new economic management mechanisms, persevere in studying and creatively testing them, and expeditiously review the actual work so as to gradually improve them.

The comrade general secretary stressed: We must firmly grasp and classify the old and new lines of thinking. In order to pay close attention to improving socioeconomic development work, we must implement the first task by building necessary factors for the socioeconomic development in our country, aimed at increasing the efficiency of the socialist economy to meet the requirements in the economic sector and to improve the living conditions of the laboring people. These interests must be closely linked together so as to ensure development and consolidation of production, thus strengthening national defense and public security work and creating mass movements for contributing to economic construction in accordance with the guidelines outlined by the party and state.

In addition, Comrade General Kaysone Phomvihan also pointed out the importance of the application of the goods-monetary relations. He said: We must consistently and correctly implement the party's line and know how to completely apply goods-monetary relations as a sharp tool in making preparations for boosting production movements and improving commercial relations between the state and people and between the rural and urban areas. To efficiently turn to the new business accounting, to broaden state trade work, and to effectively raise the level of management work, we must carry out business on a large scale so as to further enhance our strength. The comrade stressed: From then on, we must know how to fully utilize the economic structure of our country, which is composed of five economic components, the local and central economy, and our economic relations with foreign countries. This is the new line of thinking which we must appropriately fulfill.

Attends Closing Session

BK191121 Vientiane KPL in English 0903 GMT 19 Jan 87

[Text] Vientiane, January 19 (KPL) -- The national conference to review the restructuring of economic control mechanism and the conversion into a socialist system of production and business was successfully closed here Saturday after 6 days of sitting. Present at the closing ceremony was Kaysone Phomvihan, general secretary of the LPRP CC and chairman of the Council of Ministers. It was also attended by Politburo members, secretaries, members and alternate members of the LPRP CC, ministers, deputy-ministers and delegates from various economic production units throughout the country.

Before the official closing ceremony, Khamsai Souphanouvong, alternate member of the LPRP CC, deputy-head of the offices of the LPRP CC and the Council of Ministers and deputy-chief of the Central Guiding Commission for the Application of the New Economic Management, read out a draft on the continuing execution of the restructuring of the new economic management mechanism and the conversion into a socialist system of economic production and business in 1987. This draft is to be submitted to the Council of Ministers.

Then, Khambou Sounisai, member of the LPRP CC, mayor of Vientiane capital and deputy-chief of the Central Guiding Commission, took turn to deliver a closing speech on behalf of the conference organizing committee. The participants welcome the address on the new economic management order by General Secretary K. Phomvihan.

We consider that it is an important and rich document which not only reflects a new cohesion of our party and the reality of our country, but it also has a link with the newest conceptions on economic control of the fraternal parties, especially with those discussed at the 28th [as received] congress on the CPSU and the 6th congress of the CPV," he said. [quotation mark as received]

K. Sounisai added that, following the discussion on the general secretary's address, the conference's delegates saw the need for the restructuring of economic management mechanism. They also comprehended the party's basic position relating to the economic control question and the fundamental focussing points for the application of economic management mechanism in the coming period. "The success of the conference has proven the correctness of the party and government's policy on this matter. It also manifests the self-mastership spirit and the creativeness of the Lao working class," he concluded.

Besides hearing the general secretary's address, the 6-day conference also heard thirty reports read out by the delegates of various production units and state institutions, including one on the reviewing of the application of the new economic mechanism and the conversion into a socialist autonomy's in production given by Sali Vongkhamsao, Politburo member of the LPRF CC, vice-chairman of the Council of Ministers, chairman of the State Planning Committee, and chairman of the Central Guiding Commission.

The reports enumerated the positive results in the execution process of this new conception by the economic units concerned despite the fact that only 40 to 90 percent of their overall work in this field were carried out. The Lao electricity company, the beer and soft-drink factory and the cigarette factory had already fulfilled 80 to 90 percent of the work on the conversion into a socialist system of production and business. The enterprises have recorded significant successes. As a result, according to the reports, various economic units have either fulfilled or surpassed their yearly production plan in 1986, the labour productivity, the worker individual income and their standard of living were remarkably increased, and the prices of some merchandises were decreased. The contributions to the national budget in 1986 by the economic units concerned were either met or surpassed.

SISAVET KEOBOUNPHAN ADDRESSES RESIDENT VIETNAMESE

BK191346 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 19 Jan 87

[Text] On the afternoon of 16 January, Comrade Sisavat Keobounphan, member of the LPRP Central Committee Political Bureau and secretary of the Vientiane municipal party committee, addressed more than 400 representatives of Vietnamese residents in Vientiane on the foreign relations line and policy of the Lao party and state. Also present were Comrade (Vu Tien), counsellor, and a number of our embassy cadres.

Comrade Sisavat Keobounphan said: Implementing the Fourth LPRP Congress resolution, the party, state, and people of Laos constantly consolidate and strengthen their special solidarity and all-round cooperation with Vietnam and Cambodia, strengthen solidarity and all-round cooperation with the Soviet Union and other fraternal socialist countries, unite with all progressive and peace forces in the world, and resolutely support the peace initiatives put forth by the Soviet Union and socialist and other countries for world peace and security.

With regard to relations with China and Thailand, Comrade Sisavat Keobounphan affirmed: The party, government, and people of Laos always respect the relations of friendship between the peoples of Laos and Thailand as well as between the peoples of Laos and China.

They are determined to do all they can to normalize relations with Thailand and China on the basis of the five principles of peaceful coexistence so as to contribute to preserving peace and stability in Southeast Asia and world peace.

He condemned the U.S.-Thai agreement on setting up U.S. war reserve stockpiles in Thailand, saying that this only aims at serving the United States' design to maintain its military presence in Thailand and impose a threat against the Indochinese countries and peace in the region.

On the occasion of the new year, Comrade Sisavat Keobounphan extended his kind regards and New Year's greetings to all Vietnamese residents in Laos. He wished our overseas Vietnamese many new successes and ever closer Lao-Vietnamese relations.

GDR COOPERATION DELEGATION ARRIVES FOR MEETING

BK201038 Vientiane KPL in English 0921 GMT 20 Jan 87

[Text] Vientiane, January 20 (KPL) -- A delegation of the GDR led by Horst Soelle, vice-chairman of the GDR Council of Ministers and chairman of the GDR-Lao PDR intergovernmental commission for economic, scientific and technical cooperation, arrived here this morning to attend the 8th session of the commissions to be convened tomorrow. At the 8th session, the two sides will jointly study and map out the bilateral cooperation plans for 1987 and those within a framework of the Second Five-Year Plan of the state. These involve the development of coffee production in Boloben Plateau of southern Laos, the wood-processing production, the goods exchange, the training of personnel and the establishment of 11 small-size engineering workshops in Vientiane and Champassak Provinces.

Welcoming the delegation at the airport were Sali Vongkhamsoo, vice-chairman of the Council of Ministers, chairman of the State Planning Committee, and chairman of the Lao PDR-GDR intergovernmental commission for economic, scientific and technical cooperation, and other senior officials. Dietrich Jarck, GDR ambassador to the Lao PDR, was also on hand.

1986 RICE HARVEST TO REACH 1.4 MILLION TONS

BK171041 Vientiane KPL in English 0903 GMT 17 Jan 87

[Text] Vientiane, January 17 (OANA-KPL) -- The country main rice harvest in 1986 is expected to reach about 1.4 million tons and hence increasing the rice-yield per capita to nearly 400 kilograms, the most recent report of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Irrigation and Cooperatives. [as received]

Thanks to the widening of irrigation network, the report estimates that 1986 rice output will increase between 1.78 to 5.36 percent compared to 1985's figures. The remarkable achievements in rice production are registered in central provinces of Vientiane, Bolikhamsai, Khammouane, and southern Savannakhet, Saravane and Champassak Provinces and in some northern provinces.

The report points out that the collectivization movement has been steadily launched in rural areas which has brought about significant positive impact in agricultural production. To boost rice output, the Ministry of Agriculture supplied many tons of rice seeds, insecticide and fertilizer to farmers. Last year, it dispatched more than 90 threshing-machines and more than 100 tractors to various production units.

PRIME, FOREIGN MINISTERS GREET DPRK COUNTERPARTS

BK170816 Bangkok Voice of Free Asia in English 1500 GMT 16 Jan 87

[Text] Thai Prime Minister General Prem Tinsulanon sent a congratulatory message to President Kim Il-song on his reelection as president of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

In his message, General Prem said: On behalf of the government and people of the Kingdom of Thailand, I have the honor to extend to your excellency my sincere congratulations on your reelection as president of the DPRK. Please accept, excellency, my best wishes for your personal well being as well as for the sustained prosperity of your country.

Meanwhile, Thai Foreign Minister Air Chief Marshal [ACM] Sitthi Sawetsila sent a congratulatory message to Foreign Minister Kim Yong-nam on his reelection as foreign minister of the DPRK. In his message, ACM Sitthi said: It is my great pleasure to extend to your excellency my sincere congratulations on your reappointment as minister of foreign affairs of the DPRK. Please accept, excellency, my best wishes for your personal well being and future success.

SITTHI CALLS FOR SOVIET ACTION ON CAMBODIA

BK210233 Bangkok THE NATION in English 21 Jan 87 p 2

[Excerpts] Foreign Minister Sitthi Sawetsila yesterday called on Moscow to match words with deeds in solving the eight-year-old Kampuchean problem, the Foreign Ministry spokesman said.

Spokesman Sarot Chawanawirat said that Sitthi made the point in his meeting with Italian Deputy Foreign Minister Bruno Corti, who is visiting Thailand.

The spokesman said the two exchanged views on the Vladivostok speech by Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, the Kampuchean conflict, the Sino-Vietnamese relations and Vietnam after its 6th Party Congress, as well as the agreement on war reserve stockpile signed recently between Thailand and the U.S.

Sitthi said the Soviet Union showed some reconciliatory tones in the speech and interest in the region, but nothing much about the Kampuchean problem was mentioned.

Thailand, Sitthi added, will not budge on the Kampuchean problem until a fair and just solution to the conflict can be found by all parties concerned.

On the Sino-Vietnamese ties, Sitthi told Corti that China will not normalize the ties with Vietnam as long as the Kampuchean problem is not solved. [passage omitted]

An informed source said that Sitthi is expected to respond to the Soviet Ambassador to Bangkok Valentin Kasatkin's recent proposed dialogue last week. Kasatkin said that conflicting parties in the Kampuchean problem should set up a mechanism for frequent dialogue to solve the regional issue.

Sitthi is scheduled to give a press conference this evening at the Foreign Ministry's Press Centre.

MILITARY REPORTS THAI-CAMBODIAN BORDER SITUATION

BK201044 Bangkok Voice of Free Asia in Thai 1030 GMT 19 Jan 87

[Text] The Supreme Command Information Office has reported on the situation along the Thai-Cambodian border. During December, 1986 Vietnamese soldiers made 14 incursions into Thai territory, all of which were repulsed by Thai authorities. The incursions are as follows: Four into Nam Yun and Buntharik Districts of Ubon Ratchathani Province; one into Khun Han District of Sisaket Province, one into Kap Choeng District of Surin Province; one into Lahan Sai District of Buriram Province; one into Khlong Hat Subdistrict of Prachin Buri Province; and six into (Muang) and Khlong Yai Districts of Trat Province. In addition, 869 artillery rounds of Vietnamese soldiers landed in Thai territory during December, damaging 2 houses belonging to Thais, and one official building.

A total number of 272,340 Cambodian refugees fleeing the war lived along the Thai-Cambodian border -- 64,684 of them lived at the north of Sisaket and Surin Provinces, 169,588 at the middle of Prachin Buri Province, and 38,068 at the south of Chanthaburi and Trat Provinces.

BUSINESSMAN SAYS VIETNAMESE AGREE TO BARTER PLAN

BK190152 Bangkok THE NATION in English 19 Jan 87 pp 1, 2

[By Kawi Chongkitthawon]

[Text] Vietnam's largest state company in Ho Chi Minh City has agreed in principle to enter into a barter agreement for key agricultural produce with a Thai trading firm and to get cooperation in developing shrimp culture in that southern Vietnamese city, a former deputy foreign minister said yesterday.

Wong Phonnikon, who served as deputy foreign minister during 1977-78 under the Kriangsak Government, told THE NATION the proposed agreement was discussed during a recent visit here by a team of Vietnamese officials. The Vietnamese delegation was led by Nguyen Vinh Nghiep, vice chairman of the People's Committee of Ho Chi Minh City, he said.

Also in the team was Hoang Hai, department director of the Import-Export Company (IMEXCO), Vietnam's largest state enterprise, he said.

The team visited here on Jan 1-15 at the invitation of Siam International Trading company (SITCO) of which Wong is president.

Meanwhile, a senior official of the Foreign Ministry said yesterday that a Thai delegation will leave for Hanoi this month to negotiate the possibility of opening a direct air link between Bangkok and Ho Chi Minh City.

"The Vietnamese delegation showed great enthusiasm about trading with Thailand directly without going through third countries. This desire clearly stemmed from the Vietnamese determination to improve its economy," said Wong, who is a former MP from Nong Khai of the National Democratic Party.

Currently without much direct trade, Thai consumer goods and other products can be found on every street in Vietnam, he added. "It means that only the third parties benefit from the lack of trade between Thailand and Vietnam. It is time that both sides increase their efforts to boost trade," he said.

SITCO and IMEXCO agreed in principle to use the barter system to exchange specific agricultural produce, for instance Thai rice for Vietnamese jute or hessian, he said. A Foreign Ministry official said that Indonesia recently loaned Vietnam about 100,000 tons of rice.

Wong said further arrangements will be made to sell Vietnamese agricultural produce obtained through the barter system for sale in other countries. The barter deal will be the first ever to be made between Thailand and Vietnam.

"Import of foreign jute is prohibited here. The Vietnamese jute can be re-exported to any third country," he added.

The former minister also said that the cooperation in shrimp culture industry would bring to Vietnam the Thai technology and skills including capital, which can pave the way for future joint venture.

"At present, Vietnam is in the process of finalizing the new joint venture law. The joint venture in this field may be possible in the future," Wong said.

Since the establishment of the diplomatic relations a decade ago, direct trade between the two nations have been kept at the minimum. The Thai Government has reiterated from time to time that it neither supports or discourages trading with Hanoi. During the Kriangsak Government, the government offered a U.S. \$100 million credit as an incentive to Vietnam to trade with Thailand, but the credit was later annulled after the Vietnamese troops attacked Non Mak Mun, Ta Tpraya District in 1980.

"As the private sector, we try to do everything possible to encourage direct trade with Vietnam for the benefit of the two nations," said Wong, who also served as deputy minister for agriculture and cooperative in 1978-79.

The two sides also discussed the prospect of a joint venture in fisheries, he said. "It is no secret that Thailand has very small amount of marine life left in its territorial waters. Once the Thai fishermen set sail eastward, they would end up violating the Vietnamese waters," he added.

Wong added that a joint venture will be the best way to solve the problem of encroachment of Vietnamese territorial waters by Thai fishermen.

During the visit here, the Vietnamese trade delegation also visited several factories, including fish processing plant, cold storage, rattan furniture factory, seafood cannery factory, orchid farm, and jewellery factory.

The IMEXCO's representatives, Wong said, expressed interest in the Thai seafood canning technology. "Vietnam has lots of shrimp. Thailand can buy more shrimp from Vietnam for canning process and later re-exporting to other countries," he said.

The former minister also called on the Thai Government to take advantage of its geographical location by establishing air and sea links with Ho Chi Minh City. Currently only Air Force links Bangkok and the Vietnamese southern city.

USSR ENVOY DISCUSSES GORBACHEV PEACE INITIATIVE

BK210633 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 0500 GMT 20 Jan 87

[Text] At the International Club in Hanoi on 19 January, the Vietnam Committee for World Peace and the SRV-USSR Friendship Association organized a talk to mark the first anniversary of the well-known 15 January 1986 statement by CPSU General Secretary Gorbachev. Attending the function were lawyer Phan Anh, chairman of the Vietnam Committee for World Peace; Nguyen Vinh, chairman of the SRV-USSR Friendship Association; representatives of the party Central Committee Foreign Relations Department, the Propaganda and Training Department, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the Vietnam Committee for Solidarity and Friendship With Foreign Countries; and representatives of many central and Hanoi mass organizations.

Soviet Ambassador to the SRV D.I. Kachin, the USSR-SRV Friendship Association delegation, and many officials of the Soviet Embassy in Vietnam also attended the function.

After the opening speech by lawyer Phan Anh, Comrade Nguyen Van Hieu, member of the CPV Central Committee and reactor of the Vietnam Institute of Sciences, delivered a speech stressing the historic significance of Comrade Gorbachev's 15 January 1986 statement on the struggle to maintain world peace and security, which has ushered in a new era for the working class and the world people's struggle against nuclear weapons. After reviewing various peace initiatives and concrete acts conducted of the Soviet Union since this important statement, Comrade Nguyen Van Hieu pointed out: The Soviet Union has been unswervingly loyal to the Leninist foreign policy of peace and has done its best to ensure a world free of nuclear weapons. The Vietnamese communists and people wholeheartedly welcome and totally support the concrete and humanitarian Soviet peace initiatives. The Vietnamese people firmly believe that despite prevailing difficulties, the concrete and constructive Soviet proposals will be implemented. The Vietnamese people are closing ranks around the CPV, led by esteemed Comrade General Secretary Nguyen Van Linh, and are determined to carry out the three major economic programs, positively participate in CEMA's general scientific and technological development plan up to the year 2000, and strengthen solidarity with the fraternal Lao and Cambodian peoples, thereby contributing to maintaining peace and security in Asia and the rest of the world.

Comrade D.I. Kachin then delivered a speech pointing out that Comrade Gorbachev's 15 January statement has manifested the new political concept of the Soviet party and state. The statement raises the matter of the implementation of the general plan to eliminate nuclear weapons, and the plan will be a firm guarantee for world peace and security if the U.S. side reconsiders it. Comrade Kachin denounced the reactionary and warmongering forces led by the United States for scheming to push mankind into the catastrophe of a nuclear war. He stressed: To maintain peace, we must struggle. Struggling for peace is the most important task of mankind at present.

COOPERATION PROTOCOL WITH USSR SIGNED 19 JAN

OW20117 Hanoi VNA in English 0755 GMT 20 Jan 87

[Text] Hanoi VNA Jan. 19 -- A protocol on cooperation friendship for 1987 between the Vietnam Committee for Solidarity and Friendship With Other Peoples and the Vietnam-U.S.S.R. Friendship Association on the one side and the Union of Soviet Societies of Friendship and Cultural Relations With Foreign Countries and the Soviet-Vietnamese Friendship Society on the other side was signed here this afternoon.

Signatories were Nguyen Vinh, president of the Vietnam-USSR Friendship Association, and Yu.V. Trosuyev, vice-president of the Soviet-Vietnamese Friendship Society. Soviet Ambassador to Vietnam Dmitriy Kachin was present.

DELEGATION ATTENDS CEMA COMMITTEE MEETING

OW201133 Hanoi VNA in English 0743 GMT 20 Jan 87

[Text] Hanoi VNA Jan 19 -- A Vietnamese delegation of the State Commission for Sciences and Technology, led by its chairman Dang Huu, has attended a regular session of the Committee for Sciences and Technology under the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance (C.E.M.A.).

The 35th session, recently held in Ulaanbaatar (Mongolia), reviewed the implementation of the over-all program of scientific-technical cooperation among the C.E.M.A. member countries till the year 2000.

It also reviewed the implementation of their multilateral cooperation, and worked out measures to better apply scientific and technical progress in economic production for 1986-90.

NHAN DAN COMMENTS ON KURANARI'S S. PACIFIC TOUR

BK201043 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 19 Jan 87

[NHAN DAN 18 January commentary by Le Ba Thuyen: "Kuranari Doctrine and South Pacific Region"]

[Text] On 16 January 1987, Japanese Foreign Minister Tadashi Kuranari concluded his tour to five South Pacific countries -- Australia, New Zealand, Vanuatu, Fiji, and Papua New Guinea -- clearly displaying Tokyo's ever-increasing strategic concern toward this region of the world. Earlier, on 14 January, while at Suva, the capital of Fiji, Kuranari delivered a speech declaring Japan's policy toward various countries in the South Pacific archipelagoes which is referred to by the Western press as the Kuranari Doctrine.

In reality, according to sources in Tokyo, as Kuranari belongs to Nakasone's camp of the ruling Liberal-Democratic Party and strictly follows the prime minister's foreign policy since being appointed to the post of foreign minister. The Kuranari Doctrine is in essence, the Nakasone doctrine.

Through the Japanese foreign minister's policy speech in Fiji as well as the statements he made during the trip, it can be seen that the Kuranari Doctrine reveals three major problems matching the three objectives of his South Pacific tour. The first of these objectives is to promote bilateral economic relations with the countries in that region along the lines of neocolonialist exploitation. While competition for markets is fierce in the capitalist world, especially at present when Japan's economy is confronting a recession triggered by decreasing exports as a result of the yen's appreciation against the U.S. dollar which makes Japanese goods more expensive in the world market, Tokyo has tried by every means to expand the market for its goods in foreign countries while increasing its investments and the exploitation of raw material in the developing countries to reap huge profits and sustain Japan's hungry industry.

Kuranari's trip to the South Pacific was actually aimed at accelerating the settlement of these issues.

At the Japan-Australia commission meeting held at the ambassadorial level on 8-9 January, he pressured Canberra into agreeing to strengthening cooperation in broadening Japan's investment projects in that country, especially in the manufacturing industry, service, and scientific-technological fields. Tokyo also needs to buy a very large quantity of raw material and agricultural products from Australia such as wheat, dairy products, beef, and coal.

In New Zealand, where Japan has become the biggest trade partner in the past 3 years, Kuranari tried by all means to maintain and consolidate the Japanese position. In fiscal year 1985-86, Tokyo bought from Wellington only 1.53 billion New Zealand dollars' worth of raw material and agricultural products while selling as much as \$2.37 billion's worth of industrial goods, to the latter resulting in a trade deficit of \$840 million for New Zealand.

While in Vanuatu, Fiji, and Papua New Guinea, the Japanese foreign minister paid special attention to securing sea fishing rights for Tokyo especially with regard to sea bass, which is a large natural resource in the region, and for the exploitation of mineral ores. Though Japan's economic aid to various countries in the region has increased fivefold in the past decade, this has not pleased Tokyo. Speaking in Fiji, Kuranari pointed out that Japan is studying measures aimed at further broadening cooperation and rapidly accelerating Japan's contribution to development in the South Pacific region, namely, paving the way for Japanese capitalists to penetrate even more broadly and deeply into countries in the region.

Secondly, during his trip as well as in his policy speech at Suva, the Japanese foreign minister tried to urge various countries in the region to join the Pacific community coauthored by Tokyo and Washington. Tokyo's longstanding scheme, supported by Washington, is to organize a Pacific economic community composed of various countries in the region, including those in the South Pacific, with the aim of turning these countries into suppliers of raw material and cheap manpower and an outlet for investments and commodities of Japan and the United States. At present, more than 400 large companies in the United States, Japan, Australia, New Zealand, Canada, and some other countries of the Pacific Economic Council are going ahead with studies of various issues concerning trade and investment in this region.

The third, and no less important objective, is to coordinate with the United States in the latter's global strategy in the South Pacific -- a region of strategic importance to Washington where the Pentagon has set up secret bases in support of SDI, the Star Wars program; nuclear bases; and strategic air and naval bases that complete the network of U.S. military bases in the strategic Pacific rim and serve as springboards for the U.S. Rapid Deployment Force to enter the Indian Ocean and the Middle East.

The unprecedentedly growing antinuclear movement in this region is driving Washington into a very difficult and passive position. In realizing the responsibility-sharing policy worked out during his meeting with the Japanese foreign minister in Manila in August 1986, U.S. Secretary of State Shultz has pressured Tokyo into accepting more responsibility in the South Pacific. Specifically, the Reagan administration has asked Japan to increase its economic aid to island countries in the region and through this, to consolidate the West's position there in order to benefit both Washington and Tokyo and check the trends toward peace and progress in the region. Kuranari's trip to the South Pacific was also aimed at meeting this demand by the United States. The Japanese foreign minister pledged to actively help the South Pacific countries cope with what is termed as increasing Soviet presence in the region, namely to oppose friendship and cooperation offered by the Soviet Union and other socialist countries toward a number of countries in the region.

Generally speaking, the Japanese foreign minister's tour and his policy speech in Fiji were aimed at realizing two key goals of the Nakasone administration's policy -- first to intensively broaden the influence of Japanese monopolistic capitalism over and its economic penetration into foreign countries; and second, to increase Japan's active role in effectively supporting the U.S. global strategy. Despite Mr Kuranari's vow that Japan would never become a military power, peoples in the South Pacific are deeply worried that Tokyo is intensively strengthening its armed forces by raising its military budget to more than 1 percent of its national income, restoring militarism, and continuing to serve the global strategy of Washington and its extremely dangerous Star Wars program. While having to cope with the economic demon -- Japan, as the press in the region calls it -- the peoples in the region also have to deal with militarism and Tokyo's new greater East Asia doctrine. This certainly calls for higher vigilance and redoubled efforts in the struggle for peace, independence, democracy, and social progress.

NHAN DAN EDITORIAL VIEWS PRODUCT CONTRACT SYSTEM

BK190507 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 18 Jan 87

[19 January NHAN DAN editorial: "Perfect the Product Contract System in Agriculture"]

[Text] Over the past 5 years and more, along with the application of a number of technological advances and the revision of some economic policies, the system of end-product contracts with labor groups and laborers has been an important moving force promoting agricultural production, especially rice production, enabling us to record important achievements.

This form of contract began to be widely applied only recently in rice planting and is being gradually expanded to the cultivation of other crops, livestock raising, and various handicraft occupations and trades in agricultural cooperatives and production collectives. Many state farms, state forests, and state-operated aquatic products and technical service enterprises have applied end-product contracts in many different forms with groups of workers or individual workers engaged in production activities.

The managerial mechanism of linking the responsibilities of each laborer to his obligations and interests required by the product contract system has given rise to dynamism and creativity among the large masses of working people. Each family and laborer working under contract has confidently devoted more energy and capital to intensive rice cultivation, effectively overcome unexpected difficulties caused by weather conditions, and stepped up production. The product contract system has created conditions for accelerating the process of socialist transformation in agriculture in Nam Bo by means of appropriate forms and steps.

The resolution of the sixth party congress affirmed: It is necessary to continue implementing and perfecting the product contract system in agriculture [passage indistinct] is a progressive managerial measure. However, besides the strong points, there have been numerous shortcomings in the organization of implementation. A number of new problems have cropped up. Nonspecific contracts have been a fairly prevalent phenomenon. Failure to deliver products and slackening of control have occurred in many places. Along with the fairly serious practice of a bureaucratic and subsidy-based managerial system and the loose management of labor, finance, and supplies, corruption and reveling are spreading, triggering a downward trend in the revenue of the collective economic sector and diminishing the masses' confidence in the managerial bodies of collective economic organizations.

Perfecting the product contract system means developing strong points, correcting shortcomings, and promptly resolving problems that have cropped up recently. This is a pressing demand that will contribute to the successful implementation of the three targeted economic programs -- namely, the production programs for grain and foodstuffs, consumer goods, and export articles -- in keeping with the spirit of the resolution of the sixth party congress. This task will also help consolidate and perfect socialist production relations in the rural areas and ceaselessly strengthen the productive force of cooperatives and production collectives.

The activities of the state-operated service, procurement, and technical enterprises make an important contribution in helping cooperatives and production collectives overcome the practice of nonspecific contracts. We should attach greater importance to all aspects of managerial work in cooperatives and enhance training to enable grass-roots cadres to grasp managerial procedures firmly and to enable all laborers to grasp firmly the production techniques required by different crops and animals.

Thoroughly implementing the viewpoint that the people must be considered as the roots, the cooperatives and production collectives must let the people know, discuss, carry out, and control all their policies and activities. On the basis of bringing into play the moving force of the grass-roots units' and laborers' collective mastery, they must make every effort to build a new economic structure, practice specialized and intensive cultivation while carrying out general business activities, abolish the bureaucratic and subsidy-based managerial system, and gradually shift to the socialist economic accounting and business system. They must uniformly implement various managerial policies and measures such as reexamining and amending production plans, building a rational system of economic and technical norms, stabilizing contractual norms, and calculating production costs in a correct and comprehensive manner. Each grass-roots unit should actively formulate plans for producing, processing, distributing, and marketing products. Planning and economic accounting work concerning each kind of product and each production branch and trade must be improved according to each production unit and to the cooperative as a whole.

The distribution system in a cooperative will ensure the establishment of the fund for expanded reproduction, the welfare fund, and the insurance fund, thereby making the self-procured capital increase continuously. All localities should uniformly apply the new forms of contracts in various branches and trades and in the fields of production and business.

Unceasingly strengthening such material and technical facilities as tools, draft power, fertilizer, crop varieties, animal breeds, agricultural irrigation projects, vegetation protection and veterinary establishments, and means of transportation, coupled with the consolidation and strengthening of specialized labor teams and units, will help cooperatives and production collectives manage the contract system more satisfactorily.

AGRICULTURE MINISTRY LAUNCHES EMULATION MOVEMENT

BK160622 Hanoi NHAN DAN in Vietnamese 27 Dec 86 p 1

[Text] Fully imbued with the spirit of the sixth party congress resolution, the Ministry of Agriculture has launched an emulation movement to carry out five tasks in support of the three programs of production of grain and foodstuffs, consumer goods, and export articles. In the immediate future, all units of the agricultural sector must provide the peasants throughout the country with adequate and convenient services to enable them to grow more than 1.8 million hectares of winter-spring rice on schedule.

First, the Ministry of Agriculture will urgently request and guide grass-roots production and business units, technical service sectors such as agricultural supplies, crop varieties, breeder animals, engineering, tractors...to satisfactorily review and draw experience from the production and business activities of their own units in 1986 so as to develop strengths, rectify shortcomings and weaknesses, formulate new guiding plans, and adopt new measures to achieve successfully the targets of the 1987 plan.

Second, depending on the tasks and functions of each economic and technical unit and of each organ for scientific research and guidance, every party cadre and member of the agricultural sector should devise for himself a concrete program to study thoroughly and implement the sixth party congress resolution. First of all, they must, by all means, create favorable conditions for grass-roots units to quickly apply advanced technology in farming, perfect the product contract mechanism in agriculture, practice economization in production...thereby contributing to increasing productivity in crop planting and livestock raising. They must stir up a movement for creative labor in the rural areas and make an effort to fulfill the basic targets of the current winter-spring production season.

Third, the agricultural sector from the central to the local and grass-roots levels should coordinate with the other sectors concerned to assist cooperatives, production collectives, state farms, and production establishments in abolishing state subsidies in agriculture, promoting combined production and business activities, and shifting to the system of socialist economic accounting and business.

Fourth, the Ministry of Agriculture will urgently perfect the organization of its operational apparatus, especially in the service sector, to make them compact and light, and will reduce the number of intermediary links to avoid causing inconveniences to the grass-roots units and to ensure practical results. The service sector should expeditiously renovate its work methods; ensure timely supplies of materials and fertilizer to grass-roots units; mobilize to the highest level the tractor force to help prepare the soil for rice, subsidiary food crop, and industrial plant cultivation; and broaden the signing of contracts with production units for the protection of crops and livestock.

And fifth, each unit must, on the one hand, bring into play good experience and new factors in production and business establishments and learn from the successful experiences of progressive models. On the other hand, they must develop dynamism and creativity and put into effect the motto "The people must be considered the basis for implementation of all tasks and we must let the people know, discuss, act and control." In all activities, the way of thinking and the managerial mechanism must be renovated; the basic units' right to autonomy in production and business must be broadened; and material and technical conditions must be quickly prepared for satisfactorily carrying out the process of combined production and business activities.

HANOI REPORTS ON NATIONAL RICE PLANTING

BK201453 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 20 Jan 87

[Text] As of 15 January, the country as a whole had put over 900,000 hectares under winter-spring rice. Thanks to the warmer weather, provinces in the north have done the rice planting on 276,000 hectares of 27 percent of the planned area -- twice as many as that in the same period last year.

Provinces with large areas already under rice are Thanh Hoa, 67,000 hectares; Binh Tri Thien, 45,000 hectares; Vinh Phu, 26,000 hectares; and Thai Binh, 23,000 hectares.

In the southern provinces, because the 10th-month rice harvest is underway, the pace of winter-spring rice planting is slow. As of 15 January, they had been able to plant rice on 625,000 hectares of 80 percent of the planned target. This is 10 percent lower than the same period last year.

Except for those provinces with a fast planting pace such as Tien Giang attaining 105.8 percent of the planned target, Cuu Long attaining 107.7 percent, and Kien Giang attaining 99.1 percent, the planting pace in other provinces is slow. Lam Dong and Song Be Provinces have been able to plant rice on 26.2 percent and 23 percent of their rice areas, respectively, while Tay Ninh Province and Ho Chi Minh City have been able to put only 10 percent of their areas under rice.

Together with the planting of spring rice, the southern provinces are concentrating their manpower and means on promptly harvesting the 10th-month rice. According to statistics provided by the Statistics General Department, as of 15 January, the south had been able to harvest only 1.01 million hectares or 63 percent of the planted area. In the Mekong River Delta particularly, only 612,000 hectares or 55.6 percent of the planted area has been harvested. This harvesting pace is slower than the same period last year.

The schedule for planting winter-spring rice in the southern provinces is almost over. However, the area already put under rice in various localities still remains small. The already-planted winter-spring rice in the southern provinces is, in general, developing favorably. However, 45,000 hectares of rice have been infested by insects with the insect infested area mostly concentrated in Dong Thap, 19,000 hectares; Kien Giang, 12,000 hectares; Phu Khanh, 6,000 hectares; and Song Be, 3,000 hectares. Of these areas, only 7,200 hectares have been treated.

As for subsidiary food crops, as of 15 January, the country as a whole had planted 275,000 hectares -- an increase of 6 percent over the same period last year. The northern provinces have planted 231,000 hectares -- an increase of 10 percent over last year. The southern provinces have been able to put only 44,000 hectares under subsidiary food crops. Regarding the winter crops in northern provinces, corn has been planted on 53,700 hectares, an increase of 17 percent; and potatoes on 53,700 hectares, an increase of 21 percent.

With regard to short-term industrial crops, the country as a whole had planted 58,000 hectares with the north scoring an increase of 24 percent while the south is 6 percent short of what it attained in the same period last year.

According to a forecast by the Meteorological and Hydrological General Department, in the next 10 days, it is likely that there will be two cold fronts falling on the 23d-24th and the 28th-29th and the temperature may drop below 15 degree celsius. The Ministry of Agriculture urges localities in the north to mobilize their tractors for soil preparation, plant more rice seedlings for use in case of emergency, and protect cattle from the cold. As for localities in the south, they must step up the pace of harvesting 10th-month rice and planting spring rice and other winter-spring subsidiary food crops.

AQUINO BRUSHES ASIDE COUP ATTEMPT REPORTS

HK201447 Quezon City BUSINESS DAY in English 20 Jan 87 p 20

[By Reporter Teodoro y. Montelibano]

[Text] President Corazon C. Aquino yesterday brushed aside reports of another coup attempt and accepted a challenge of her former defense chief, Juan Ponce Enrile, to debate on the proposed 1986 Constitution.

The President said she has yet to receive a formal letter from Enrile but told mediamen through Press Secretary Teodoro Benigno that she was accepting Enrile's challenge.

"Since this is a campaign for the ratification of the draft charter and not a presidential election and since Enrile's stature used to be a ministerial level," Benigno said, the President will designate one of her ministers to face Enrile in a debate.

Dismissing reports of another coup try as rumors, Mrs Aquino said, "Nobody woke me up last Saturday (when the attempted coup was supposed to have taken place) and thus, apparently nothing of significance worth calling my attention took place."

Benigno said the President then was unaware of heavy troop movements around Malacanang, including the noticeable surrounding of the palace by government soldiers in heavy battle gear with armored tanks and firetrucks water hoses ready, guarding all entrances leading to the palace.

The press secretary told reporters that retired Gen. Jose Magno, the President's adviser on military affairs, had stressed there was absolutely no truth to reports linking the rash of bombings in Central Mindanao attributed to the Mor Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) and Marcos loyalist elements.

He said during a "routinary" [word as published] meeting yesterday with the President along with Philippine Constabulary-Integrated National Police chief Brig. Gen. Renato de Villa at Malacanang, Magno "laughed off reports that also alleged that the MILF was being supplied with arms by the loyalists."

Meanwhile, assessing the results of her pro-charter campaign swing around the country, the President said she was "confident that the proposed constitution will easily be ratified by the people" contrary to projections by the opposition that the charter, at most will get only 35 percent of total votes cast.

Among other indicators the President cited was the heavy turnout in pro-charter rallies held in various cities she has visited.

Meanwhile, Justice Minister Neptali Gonzales said anyone who held the position of defense minister for 20 years and had "near absolute power during the time of Marcos wields some political power."

Gonzales, who addressed prospective Lakas ng Bansa members in Zamboanga City Sunday added that currently "no Filipino, including Enrile can be a serious threat to President Aquino or her government."

The best argument against charges hurled by the ousted defense minister at the President and the present government was presented by former Natural Resources Minister (now appointed ambassador plenipotentiary) Ernesto Maceda who was also in Zamboanga with Gonzales.

Referring to Enrile's accusations that the present government is "illegitimate" and the President "a dictator," Maceda asked: "why then did he (Enrile) take his oath under the Freedom Constitution?"

Continued Maceda "Enrile accuses the President of being a dictator but she is the only President I know who is doing all she can to have the constitution ratified and by so doing, limits her term of office and allows herself to lose her legislative powers under the Freedom Constitution."

Maceda, who was one of the victims along with Enrile of the Cabinet reorganization last November, pointed out that the ex-defense minister is not 63 years old. "Nearly," Maceda said, adding that "Enrile is campaigning against the draft charter because by 1992, he would be too old to run for the presidency."

The proposed charter allows President Aquino until 1992 or a term of six years to remain in office with no reelection.

According to Maceda, Enrile is campaigning against the constitution hoping that the President will be forced to call for new presidential election should the charter be rejected by the people.

If that possibility happens and presidential polls are indeed held sooner than provided for in the draft charter, Maceda said, "No way is Enrile going to become president. What with his credibility shattered, either this year, next year or in 1992. The people just won't allow him to."

GOVERNMENT, NDF PEACE EFFORTS DESCRIBED

HK171004 Manila THE MANILA CHRONICLE in English 17 Jan 87 p 6

[Special article by Paulynn Sicam]

[Excerpts] Davao City -- It has been observed that the farther north one travels from Manila, the more difficult seem to be prospects for a prolonged ceasefire. On the other hand, the farther south one goes, the rosier the picture becomes.

A visit to Mindanao can be an instructive experience to the ceasefire watcher and implementor. In fact, there is much to be learned about peacemaking from both the National Democratic Front [NDF] and the Philippine Government's forces in Mindanao.

At a press conference in Davao City last Wednesday, seven representatives of the NDF from all over the island told journalists how they are trying to make the ceasefire work.

First, said Jorge Madlos, Communist Party secretary for Northeastern Mindanao and the NDF's representative to the regional ceasefire committee of Region X, they have made it a policy not to release reports of alleged military ceasefire violations to the media. Madlos said that they have enjoined the military to do the same.

The proper channel for these, Madlos said, are the ceasefire committees which will investigate the incidents.

The purpose, he said, is to prevent irritants that may derail the on-going peace talks in Manila.

Second, stick to basic issues. Even questions that continue to aggravate the NDF's national negotiators Antonio Zumel and Satur Ocampo such as the carrying of arms, the definition of population centers, and rebel rehabilitation schemes of Government have not been allowed to mar the peace efforts in Mindanao.

The military and the NDF, an NDF statement said, "have maintained mutual accommodation of each other's ideas within ceasefire committees."

Although such matters are important, Madlos said, "those are not the only things we want to put across during the ceasefire. If we insist on discussing population centers and the like, we will spend all our time on these issues instead of the more important ones."

Foremost in Madlos' mind is airing the NDF's program through the breadth and width of the island of Mindanao which the ceasefire period has allowed them to do.

Third, taking "good faith" seriously. The New People's Army [NPA] in the island has not challenged the firearm rule by displaying its firepower, the way the NPA did in Bataan on Dec. 11 and 26 last year. It is "unnecessary," Madlos told the 'CHRONICLE' and would simply provoke military action.

Fourth, the NDF actively solicits the friendship of the different sectors involved in the peace process. Emphasizing that the "human pace" of the NDF must be projected, the NDF leaders seek out the "middle forces," the military, the religious and civic groups, and the man in the street.

After the press conference at the Maguindanao Hotel in downtown Davao, the NDF delegation motored to Camp Catitipan to pay a courtesy call on Brig. Gen. Romeo Recina, RUC [Regional Unified Command] commander of Region XI. Later, they called on lawyer Jesus Ayala, a millionaire Davao businessman who is President Aquino's consultant for Region XI.

At Camp Catitipan, Madlos and his companions, Fr. Frank Navarro, Frank's brother Librado, Ike de los Reyes, Nido Nabong, Timoteo Pupa and Ariel Badiang, were delighted with an announcement by Gen. Recina that his command has forwarded to the general headquarters in Manila a recommendation to extend the 60-day ceasefire beyond Feb. 8.

"We have no problems with the NPA," Recina told the rebels. "We have a common objective of improving the economic conditions of our people."

Besides, he added, the Government really needs the space and time that peace provides to introduce necessary services to neglected areas. Also, nothing substantive has yet been arrived at in Manila, he said. "We need more time to talk."

And, said Recina smiling broadly, there have been no major violations of the ceasefire, at least in his area.

The NDF said that they could think of no major violations either in the whole of Mindanao.

The NDF brought up to Recina the matter of armed security escorts for them as they travel through populated centers in the island.

The negotiators, they explained, have safe conduct passes issued by the military commanders in their regions but their security people do not have any.

The situation is, NDF leaders with high prices on their heads go around without armed protection. The military, with whom they have established "good relations," Madlos said amiably, is not the NDF's reason to fear for their lives this time. There are other elements -- armed fanatical groups, private armies of warlords not under the purview of the ceasefire agreement that may want to do them harm.

If their own forces cannot be given safe conduct passes and permits to carry firearms, Fr. Frank Navarro, whom people call "Migo" (friend) said, perhaps the General could provide them with a close-in security detail from the armed forces.

Recina assured the rebels he would work for safe conduct passes for the NDF and their own guards.

The relations are so good between the NPA and the military, Madlos said, that they have shared not only meals but quarters in Datagan, Surigao del Sur. There have even been discussions of possible joint operations by the NPA and the NAFF [New Armed Forces of the Philippines] against fanatical groups and warlords on the island. In the northeast, northwest and southern regions of Mindanao, the rebels and the military have even conducted joint press conferences. Courtesy calls on military officials by the NDF leaders are not unusual in the island. [passage omitted]

The courtesy calls, the handshakes, the consultations have more than propaganda value as far as the NDF in Mindanao is concerned. Jorge Madlos said at the press conference that morning that the Edsa uprising last February had substantially changed the way the rebels carry out their struggle.

"We realized that somehow we have to accommodate other forces in the revolutionary struggle," he said. "We would like to express our admiration to the middle forces who exerted great effort to make Edsa happen." [passage omitted]

EXTENSION OF CEASE-FIRE UNDER CONSIDERATION

HK210153 Manila Far East Broadcasting Company in English 2300 GMT 20 Jan 87

[Text] On the cease-fire, chief government negotiator Teofisto Guingona says most of the regional cease-fire committees favor an extension of the 60-day cease-fire due to expire on February 8. According to Guingona, in his visits to the north and the south, people expressed a desire for the extension of the cease-fire because of the relative peace it brought to many parts of the country.

On the other hand, the communist representatives to the National Cease-fire Committee Francisco Pascual said the deadlock on the common agenda and the alleged stepped-up military operations make the cease-fire extension unlikely. He said the NDF will shortly decide on whether it will agree to an extension or not.

The alleged stepped-up military operations were denied by the military. The Armed Forces Command said the military is only carrying out its functions of maintaining peace and order in accordance with the law.

COMMUNISTS CONSIDERING TALKS WITHDRAWAL

HK210721 Hong Kong AFP in English 0717 GMT 21 Jan 87

[Text] Manila, Jan 21 (AFP) -- Communist insurgents are seriously considering withdrawing from current talks with the government due to a growing sentiment from their ranks that the negotiations are going nowhere, a rebel spokesman said Wednesday.

"There's a growing trend of frustration" among the insurgent ranks in regions outside Manila "that the peace talks are not going anywhere," National Democratic Front (NDF) representative Luis Jalandoni told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE.

Asked if the NDF leadership has made a decision to pull out from the two-week old talks, Mr. Jalandoni, the NDF's international representative, said: "These are being considered very seriously."

"Definitely they have to be taken very seriously as soon as possible," he added.

Mr. Jalandoni would not say how strong the clamor for withdrawal was, but he added that it was due to what the rebels perceived as the government negotiating panel's attempt to "restrict" the agenda of the talks.

He also cited the Armed Forces' alleged disregard of the agreement governing their ongoing ceasefire with the insurgent forces.

Rolando Quizon, the NDF's official representative in President Corazon Aquino's home region of Central Luzon Island and one of the advocates for a pullout, told reporters that withdrawal from the talks would not necessarily affect the truce which ends on February 7.

UNIDO TO OPPOSE EXTENSION OF CEASE-FIRE

HK151541 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER in English 15 Jan 87 pp 1, 6

[Text] The United National Democratic Organization (UNIDO) will oppose any extension of the ceasefire with the communist rebels "unless certain conditions are met," party chief Salvador H. Laurel said yesterday.

The vice president said the party's delegation was reached by its Council of Leaders during a closed door meeting.

He did not detail UNIDO's conditions saying they would be submitted to President Aquino who, he said, sought the party's advice on the truce extension issue.

The council's decision was tamer than the one earlier announced by party Secretary General Rene Espina.

"The party would like to put on record that it is against the prolongation of the truce," Espina told a press conference earlier.

He said UNIDO believes the National Democratic Front [NDF] which forged the ceasefire with the government "won't come to any agreement based on its repeated pronouncements that it does not recognize any government and that the communists would never surrender."

Espina said the truce has only given the NDF the opportunity to gain strength both in arms and following.

He said he had received information that about 2,000 Soviet-made Automat Kalashnikovs (AK-47 assault rifles) had been landed in Samar and that the communists have taken advantage of the ceasefire to engage in widespread teach-ins in poor areas, including those of Metro Manila. He sidestepped questions on whether or not the rifles came from the Soviet Union.

On the controversy over the leakage of an alleged top-secret memorandum, Laurel said: "I don't think I can be a suspect because the Office of the Vice President is not close to the NDF."

Laurel's office is also being investigated because a copy of the controversial document was also furnished the vice president.

During the press conference, the UNIDO said it has begun filling up the 24 slots for its senatorial ticket for the May 11 election. The partial lineup includes Edgardo J. Angara, Hernani Perez, Joey Laurel, Vicente Puyat, Wilson Gamboa, Raul Gonzales, Rene Espina, Mamintal Tamano, Pablito Sanidan, Dominador Aytona, Hjalmar Quintana, and Candu Muarip.

REGIONAL CEASE-FIRE COMMITTEE MEMBERS NAMED

HK170907 Manila THE MANILA CHRONICLE in English 16 Jan 87 p 3

[Text] The government and the National Democratic Front (NDF) approved yesterday the official list of appointees to the ceasefire committees in Regions 5, 6, 10, 11 and 12, and Lanao del Norte and Davao del Norte.

Bishop Antonio Fortich, chairman of the National Ceasefire Committee (NCC) said that only two regional ceasefire committees -- in Regions 1 and 2 -- have not yet been formed.

The list of appointees, approved by government chief negotiator Teofisto Guingona and Satur Ocampo of the NDF, include: Region 5 -- Bishops Concordio Sarte and Jesus Varela (co-chairmen), Aquilino Bonto (member), Brig Gen Eduardo Taduran (Government) and Celso Minguez (NDF); Region VI -- Archbishop Alberto Piamonte (chairman), Manuel Sarabia (member), Enrique Arguillas (member), Col Edmundo Larroza (Government), and Mrs Concha Araneta Bocala (NDF); Region X -- Archbishop Patrick Cronin (chairman), Mariano Carrasas (member), Boy Tabios (member), Brig Gen Mariano Adalem (Government) and Nido Nabong (NDF);

Region XI -- Soledad Duterte (chairwoman), Msgr Juan de Dios Puebles (member), Dionisio de la Cerna (member), Brig Gen Romeo Recina (Government), and Timoteo Pupa (NDF); Region XII -- Fred Epiz (Chairman), OIC [Officer-in-charge] Florante Respicio (member), Dominador Dizon (member), Maj Renato Santos (Government) and Nicanora Espina (NDF).

The Provincial Ceasefire Committee [PCC] in Lanao del Norte is composed of Bishop Fernando Capalla (chairman), Manuel Celdran and Gener Soliva (members), Maj Eduardo Gallego (Government) and Ike de los Reyes (NDF). The PCC in Davao del Norte include: Bishop Wilfredo Manlapaz (chairman), Angelina San Jose (member), Col Marcelino Blando (Government) and Froilan Maureal (NDF).

NDF PROVINCIAL OFFICIALS RETURNING TO HIDEOUTS

HK201332 Hong Kong AFP in English 1324 GMT 20 Jan 87

[Text] Manila, Jan 20 (AFP) -- Provincial representatives of the communist-led National Democratic Front (NDF) rebel coalition began returning to their hideouts Tuesday following weeks of living in the open, rebel spokesmen said.

The retreat fueled speculation that a ceasefire and talks on a political settlement to the Philippines' 18-year-old communist insurgency are about to collapse.

NDF representatives in the central city of Iloilo abandoned their office there Tuesday, hours after bombings attributed by the military to communist guerrillas damaged four bridges around the city, a rebel spokesman here said.

The rebel representatives in the Bicol region southeast of here announced Tuesday that they were to follow suit Wednesday, citing danger to the lives of their personnel, an NDF spokesman in Legazpi City said in a press statement.

Asked if these developments presaged the collapse of the peace talks and the ceasefire, NDF spokesman Carolina Malay-Ocampo said the coalition was watching developments very closely, but that the rebels were not running for cover.

She said the situation was tense in Iloilo.

ENRILE CLAIMS NO CHANCE FOR CHARTER APPROVAL

HK170856 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER in English 17 Jan 87 p 3

[By Carla Gomez]

[Text] Bacolod City -- Former Defense Minister Juan Ponce Enrile said Thursday that unless the revolutionary regime of President Aquino manipulates the results of the plebiscite, "she and her followers will get the political shock of their lives from the Filipino people."

The Filipino electors will vote "no" to express their frustration and disappointment over the weakness of the revolutionary government, Enrile predicted to a crowd of 450 composed mostly of civic leaders and lawyers at the Bascon Hotel.

Enrile delivered his tirade against the Charter after a meeting with Negros Occidental Nationalista Party leaders, headed by former MP Antonio Gatuslao.

There are many opposing the draft Constitution, including the communists for their own special reason, Enrile said, adding that even members of the military have been quietly campaigning against it.

"So defective is this Constitution, so badly written that I was compelled to go to the people and ask for its rejection," Enrile said. "Only a no vote will bring democracy to the Filipino people."

The draft Constitution he claimed has the same defect the Cory government used to discard the 1973 Constitution, adding that the 1973 Charter was forced upon the people during a period of martial law.

The President is trying to get the 1986 Constitution approved "on the basis of coercion by the revolutionary government."

In the future, a new President could disapprove the 1986 Constitution because it was presented to the people under very abnormal political conditions," Enrile warned.

KMU AFFILIATES TO SUPPORT DRAFT CONSTITUTION

HK200219 Quezon City ANG PAHAYAGANG MALAYA in English 19 Jan 87 p 3

[By Joey Salgado]

[Text] Two major affiliates of the Kilusang Mayo Uno [KMU-1 May Movement] have adopted a "critical yes" position in the coming plebiscite in defiance of a decision of the labor center's national congress to reject the proposed Constitution.

The Negros-based National Federation of Sugar Workers and the National Federation of Labor, [NFL] headed by former KMU vice chairman Cipriano Malonzo, have decided to vote for the ratification of the proposed Charter despite "reservations" on several provisions.

KMU chairman Crispin Beltran fled to Bacolod last week, but failed to convince leaders of the 40,000-strong sugar workers association to change their stand.

In its third national congress last December, the KMU branded the proposed Charter "anti-people and pro-imperialist" and agreed to launch an "active no" campaign.

The Negros delegates were among the proponents of a "critical yes" vote during floor deliberations, but were overruled by majority of the KMU constituents, the decisions of the national congress are binding on all its 600,000 worker-members nation-wide.

KMU officials did not say if disciplinary measures would be imposed on the two organizations.

The NFL was the first KMU member to defy the national congress resolution.

Advocates of a "critical yes" position within the KMU said while they agree that the proposed Charter contains "objectionable provisions," the militant labor group should not commit the same error of "isolating itself" from the political mainstream, like what it did during the February snap election.

The KMU's largest affiliate federation, the National Federation of Labor Unions, [NAFLU] formerly headed by slain labor leader Rolando Olalia, is sticking to the KMU's decision to junk the Charter.

The NAFLU central committee passed a unanimous resolution urging all 150,000 NAFLU members to reject the Charter.

NAFLU was founded in 1957 by the late Felixberto Olalia. After his death in 1983, he was succeeded by his son Rolando, who became KMU chairman until his brutal murder last Nov. 13.

NAFLU President Zosimo Carullo admitted that Olalia had opted for a "critical yes" vote a few days before his death.

However, Carullo said political events in the country took a totally different turn after Olalia's slaying.

"We realized that the Aquino government is using the ratification of the proposed Constitution to bolster its own programs and policies which to us are anti-worker and pro-imperialist."

Carullo identified the "anti-labor moves" as the dismissal of Augusto Sanchez as labor minister and President Aquino's failure to sign the executive orders formalizing her Labor Day pronouncements.

GOVERNMENT, MNLF TALKS TO RESUME 9 FEB IN MANILA

HK210459 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog 0330 GMT 21 Jan 87

[Text] Renewed peace talks between the government and the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) are scheduled for 9 February. According to an MNLF negotiator, Chairman Nur Misuari is due to arrive in Manila the first week of next month from the Middle East to attend the talks. [passage indistinct]

21 KILLED IN MINGUINDANAO MNLF-MILF CLASH

HK210457 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog 0330 GMT 21 Jan 87

[Text] Residents of places around Datu Piang in Maguindanao have fled to a safer area after two feuding Muslim rebel factions engaged in heavy fighting 2 days ago, killing 21 persons. The clash between the MNLF and MILF [Moro Islamic Liberation Front] erupted in Barangay (Kalbo) in (Sakopian) town. After engaging in a battle lasting almost 36 hours, the MILF claimed to have killed 9 members of the MNLF, while the MNLF said it killed 11 MILF members. A lone civilian casualty was identified as (Alai Ramon).

Barangay (Kalbo) is 1 and 1/2 km from the national highway to General Santos City in Southern Cotabato.

The MILF overran Barangay (Kalbo), which was the MNLF's local headquarters, according to (Datu Bualgas), who led 200 armed men in the attack on the Barangay, which the MNLF is attempting to retake.

Meanwhile, presidential adviser on national affairs Aquilino Pimentel said that if the fighting between the two rebel Muslim groups continues, it would be difficult to bring both factions to the negotiating table.

PIMENTEL WANTS ALL-FACTION MINDANAO PEACE PANEL

HK201328 Manila THE MANILA CHRONICLE in English 20 Jan 87 pp 1, 3

[Text] All groups of importance in Mindanao -- Muslim rebels, Christians and tribal minorities -- should be part of one panel that will negotiate peace with Government, Presidential Adviser on National Affairs Aquilino Pimentel Jr. said yesterday.

Pimentel, Government's chief panelist in the Mindanao peace talks, said that representation in the panel must correspond to the size of strength of each group. To accredit members to this peace panel, he said a preliminary commission must be formed because Government does not like to impose preconditions on how many representatives each group should have.

Interviewed after meeting with President Aquino in Malacanang, Pimentel said Government's desire is to negotiate with a single panel that could speak for all the groups in Mindanao. These include, he said, the Moro National Liberation Front of Nur Misuari, the Moro Islamic Liberation Front [MILF] of Hashim Salamat, the MNLF-reformists of Dimas Pundato, local Muslim, Christian and minority tribes' leaders.

"We're not saying that they should all have the same number of representatives, but that they should be represented," he said. Government, possibly through a preliminary commission, will try to work out a "rational composition" of the panel "but will not interfere in their (groups') internal affairs."

Right now, the Government is waiting for the position papers on the Mindanao problem of various groups Pimentel said. Only the MNLF and the MILF have so far submitted theirs. In a meeting of the Government and MNLF peace panels on Feb. 9, Pimentel said he also hopes to draw in leaders of the other Mindanao groups "to flesh out the autonomy proposal."

The MILF has proposed that only one panel should negotiate with Government for all three rebel factions. Pimentel said his impression is the MNLF was also agreeable to this. In Jeddah, Saudi Arabia early this month, he said MNLF's Misuari had stated that his goal was to bring together "all interest groups of Muslim's under one organization."

Government does not find it necessary to now seek the assistance of the Islamic Conference in the peace talks, Pimentel said.

MILF DEMANDS SAME GOVERNMENT RECOGNITION AS MNLF

HK201341 Manila MANILA BULLETIN in English 20 Jan 87 p 1

[Text] The Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) will not allow the government to reconstruct nine bridges in Lanao which its forces burned last week, unless the Aquino government gives it the same recognition given to the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF).

The MNLF stand was relayed yesterday to Public Works and Highways Minister Vicente Jayme by Mamintal Adiong, one of the MPWH [Ministry of Public Works and Highways] deputy ministers and a native of Lanao.

Adiong, in a radio message, said he conferred with Commander Tony Falcon, MILF secretary general, who assured him that the MILF would no longer attack any government vehicle or equipment.

Adiong estimated that P1.9 million would be needed to reconstruct the burned bridges.

Also burned by the MILF, according to Adiong, were an MPWH-owned grader, an ambulance of the Mindanao State University (MSU), and a service vehicle owned by the Dansalan Junior College.

Adiong said all the places around the scenic Lanao lake, except for Marawi City and Saguiran town, have no electric power as a result of heavy damage to power lines or electric posts.

The burned bridges are located in Cadapaan, Lakitan, Tarik-buntong, Manacab, Sapot, Lalabuan, Dilausan, Bansayan, and Dagook.

MINDANAO LEADERS WARN GOVERNMENT ON NEGOTIATION

HK191520 Manila MANILA BULLETIN in English 19 Jan 87 p 86

[Text] Mindanao leaders warned yesterday of further deterioration of peace and order in the South if the government continues to approach the problem on a piecemeal or fragmented basis.

The Mindanao-Sulu-Palawan association (Minsupala) claimed that despite pronouncements that it will consult all segments of the citizenry, the government "continues to ignore other groups in the negotiations, especially Christians who comprise over 80 percent of the population."

Former Surigao del Norte Governor Rolando G. Geotina, Minsupala head, said the present Mindanao crisis had taken place, as predicted earlier, because of the government policy of "isolating and dealing with individual groups, rather than all sectors."

Geotina said that from the time the talks began, the government peace panel, headed by Minister Aquilino G. Pimentel Jr., has concentrated on the Moro Liberation Front (MNLF) headed by Nur Misuari.

He said this regulated in [as published] the violent and disastrous action staged by a breakaway MNLF faction led by Hashim Salamat who felt he was being ignored by Pimentel.

Geotina said the Minsupala had repeatedly urged the government to include all interested parties in the Mindanao peace negotiations.

"To convince the people of Mindanao in its sincerity," Geotina said, "the government must release in full the contents of the agreement it signed with Misuari in Jeddah on Jan. 6."

Geotina recalled that in a conference of Mindanao leaders in Malacanang last Oct. 20, President Aquino announced she will create a Mindanao Commission for peace and development as proposed by Minsupala.

He said nothing has been heard about the commission since then.

The Minsupala leader said the government must act decisively and invite the participation of various Mindanao organizations and leaders in the peace negotiations.

"Otherwise, the Aquino government will only have itself to blame for what is happening and what is going to happen in Mindanao," he said.

MISUARI WARNS AGAINST GOVERNMENT RETALIATION

HK190936 Hong Kong AFP in English 0912 GMT 19 Jan 87

[Text] Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, Jan 19 (AFP) -- The leader of the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) has cautioned the Philippine government not to carry out "retaliatory actions" against the civilian population of southern Mindanao Island in response to recent terrorist actions claimed by Moslems.

Nur Misuari, who heads the main Moslem faction which has agreed to a ceasefire with the government, warned in an interview with the Jeddah-based SAUDI GAZETTE Monday that his group would "have to declare war" if the government did so.

"Although this is not a war of our own making, we wil protect our civilians because it is our sacred duty," he was quoted as saying.

Mr. Misuari noted that several new developments had occurred which would affect the autonomy talks slated to begin of February 9 in the Philippines.

In the first was the rejection by President Corazon Aquino of the MNLF's request to suspend portions of the draft constitution relating to autonomy for Mindanao.

"Under the new constitution, her (Aquino's) flexibility will be curtailed and our talks then might not produce the desired positive resulsts," Mr. Misuari noted.

Misuari said the second development was yesterday's truce between the MILF and the government. The MNLF leader said that the government had promised him here on January 3 that it would not consult any other Moro faction without first consulting the MNLF.

"This is a betrayal of that pledge," Misurai noted, adding that the MILF had rebuffed MNLF's attempts at unity.

NPA REPORTEDLY KILLS 200 FOR NOT PAYING 'TAXES'

HK170409 Manila Far East Broadcasting Company in English 2300 GMT 16 Jan 87

[Text] Over 200 residents of Barangay Ubo in Daram, Samar were beheaded and hanged to death by communist NPA rebels for failure to pay revolutionary taxes to the insurgents. These atrocities by the NPA were reported by a group of evacuees composing 41 families who arrived in Baang, Bantayan, Cebu yesterday aboard 10 pump boats. The refugees, headed by Santos Dipas, said they fled their homes to escape the NPA atrocities. They also said that more than 20 families from their barangay are expected to follow since NPA depredations increased. They claimed that the local police were helpless since the station commander of Daram was killed inside the police station last year.

SOVIET EMBASSY DENIES DELIVERING ARMS TO REBELS

HK200657 Hong Kong AFP in English 0625 GMT 20 Jan 87

[Text] Manila, Jan 20 (AFP) -- The Soviet Embassy here denied Tuesday that it had delivered a shipment of arms to Philippines communist rebels.

"There is absolutely no truth" in allegations that the communists had recently taken delivery of a Soviet shipment of arms landed secretly on the central island of Samar, an embassy spokesman said.

Rightwing politician Rene Espina had charged last week that Soviet arms had been landed by an unmarked ship by night for communist New People's Army (NPA) camp in Samar.

The Soviet Embassy spokesman, dismissing the allegation, added that in the dark it would be impossible to tell whether a boat was unmarked or not.

The Philippine Foreign Ministry has said it is investigating the report.

The Soviet Union has already denied press reports two weeks ago that it had offered the communists arms and money, but that the communists had rejected them because there were too many strings attached.

The communist rebels then admitted for the first time in the history of the 18-year-old insurgency that they received material aid from foreign governments, but said it was limited to "old clothes."

THE MANILA TIMES newspaper said Tuesday that "the entire range of Philippine-Soviet relations is being reviewed, amid reports that the growing 'unusual interest' by the Soviet Union in the country is being discreetly investigated by the government."

Vice President and Foreign Minister Salvador Laurel said last month that the Kremlin had asked to be allowed to add to its diplomats here. The Soviet Union has also asked if its ships can dock at Philippine ports and undergo repairs at local shipyards. The Foreign Ministry said Tuesday that it had not yet made a decision on the ships question.

The United States maintains two military bases in the Philippines. The Subic Bay Naval Facility and the Clark Air Base are the target of strong criticism from the left, which charges that the United States interferes in Philippine affairs and still treats the country like a colony.

INCREASING SOVIET INTEREST INVESTIGATED

HK201055 Manila THE MANILA TIMES in English 20 Jan 87 pp 1, 6

[By Francis Cevallos]

[Text] The entire range of Philippine-Soviet relations is being reviewed amid reports that the growing "unusual interest" by the Soviet Union in the country is being discreetly investigated by the government.

Foreign Ministry analysts made this move yesterday even as a source, who talked on conditions of anonymity, said the Foreign Ministry asked a number of government offices to investigate reports of alleged incursions of Soviet vessels into Philippine territory under "suspicious circumstances" and of Soviet contacts being established with the local communists.

One reporter said a shipment of Soviet-made Kalshnikov assault rifles were unloaded in Samar recently and delivered to a New People's Army (NPA) camp under cover of darkness.

Other "suspicious" actions by the Soviets, the source said, are their "flirtings" with Filipino communists such as their reported shifting of support from the Partido Komunista ng Pilipinas (PKP) to the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP); the construction of a multimillion-peso three-story building in Forbes Park overlooking the Philippine Army headquarters at Fort Bonifacio, presumably to accommodate an enlarged Russian Embassy staff; the alleged involvement of the KGB, the Soviet secret service, in the disappearance of a Filipino employe of the Philippine Embassy in Moscow, and the Soviets' persistent requests for their ships to be allowed to dock for repairs at Philippine shipyards.

"These may all be intended to promote Philippine-Soviet friendship, but there's more than meets the eye in the Soviet moves," the source said.

The report about the arrival of a Soviet ship in Samar came out last week when former Sen. Rene Espina, UNIDO [United Nationalist Democratic Organization] secretary-general, revealed to newsmen that a ship (with no visible markings) unloaded Soviet-made weapons near the shore, which were in turn delivered by the speedboats to an NPA stronghold up a river in Samar under cover of darkness. Espina said the report was classified as "raw information" but residents of the area and local military intelligence officials remain disturbed about the incident. The Soviet Embassy has not denied the report.

The scuttlebutt in the city coffee shops is that Moscow has shifted its support to the NPA, Espina said.

The NOVOSTI Press Agency, a Soviet news organ, has reported that the Communist Party of the Soviet Union (CPSU) Central Committee has sent official greetings to the ninth congress of the CPP, congratulating the latter on its "heroic fight" against the "aggressive policy of U.S. imperialism." The CPSU, NOVOSTI stated, holds that "a solution to mankind's major problem of preserving peace on earth can be achieved now through the united efforts of all peace forces which, by their joint action, can foil the ominous designs of the aggressive circles of imperialism." It added that "the Communist Party of the Philippines, by striving for the unity of the leftist forces in the Philippines, contributes to the realization of the ideals of peace and social progress, in accordance with the aspirations of the Philippine people."

"The friendship overtures are too obvious," the ministry source said.

Another sign of increasing Russian interest in the country is the enlargement of the USSR Embassy staff in Manila. Last month, Foreign Ministry Salvador H. Laurel told newsmen that the Philippines has received requests from the USSR to be allowed to increase its embassy staff. The staff is supposed to consist of 34, but according to Laurel, it was increased to 57 during the Marcos administration "without the knowledge of the ministry." It has been reported that six more staffers were added recently to the embassy's commercial section, he said. The matter is under study by the government, he said, because there is no equality between the two countries; the Philippine Embassy in Moscow has only eight Filipino staffers.

On the new Soviet building, a ministry official commented: "What will the Russians do with that big building?" It overlooks the Philippine Army's "biggest base," Fort Bonifacio.

On the case of the missing Filipino staffer in Moscow, it was reported that he must have been recruited into the Soviet spy ring. The Philippine Embassy has reported him as "missing."

Philippine Ambassador to Moscow Alejandro Melchor has been instructed to investigate the case of the staffer, Ruben C. Vibar, a radio-telephone operator who disappeared in Moscow after he reportedly became "uncooperative" with the Soviet spy agency.

During his alleged "connection" with the Soviets, the Filipino must have given to the Soviets the "code system" of the Foreign Ministry, through which it communicates with all its embassies and consultates abroad. The latest report, according to some ministry officials, is that Vibar and a sister, who also worked in Moscow, have escaped to the United States.

Laurel said the Russian Embassy has requested a number of times for Soviet ships to be allowed into Philippine waters and to dock for repairs at Philippine shipyards.

The government, Laurel said, will announce soon its policy on the matter. But as of now, Soviet ships are being allowed to dock, according to Deputy Foreign Minister Leticia Shahani, pending announcement of the policy.

Soviet ships are being allowed to dock at shipyards in the South, particularly Cebu. American ships are allowed to dock in Luzon, Shahani said.

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